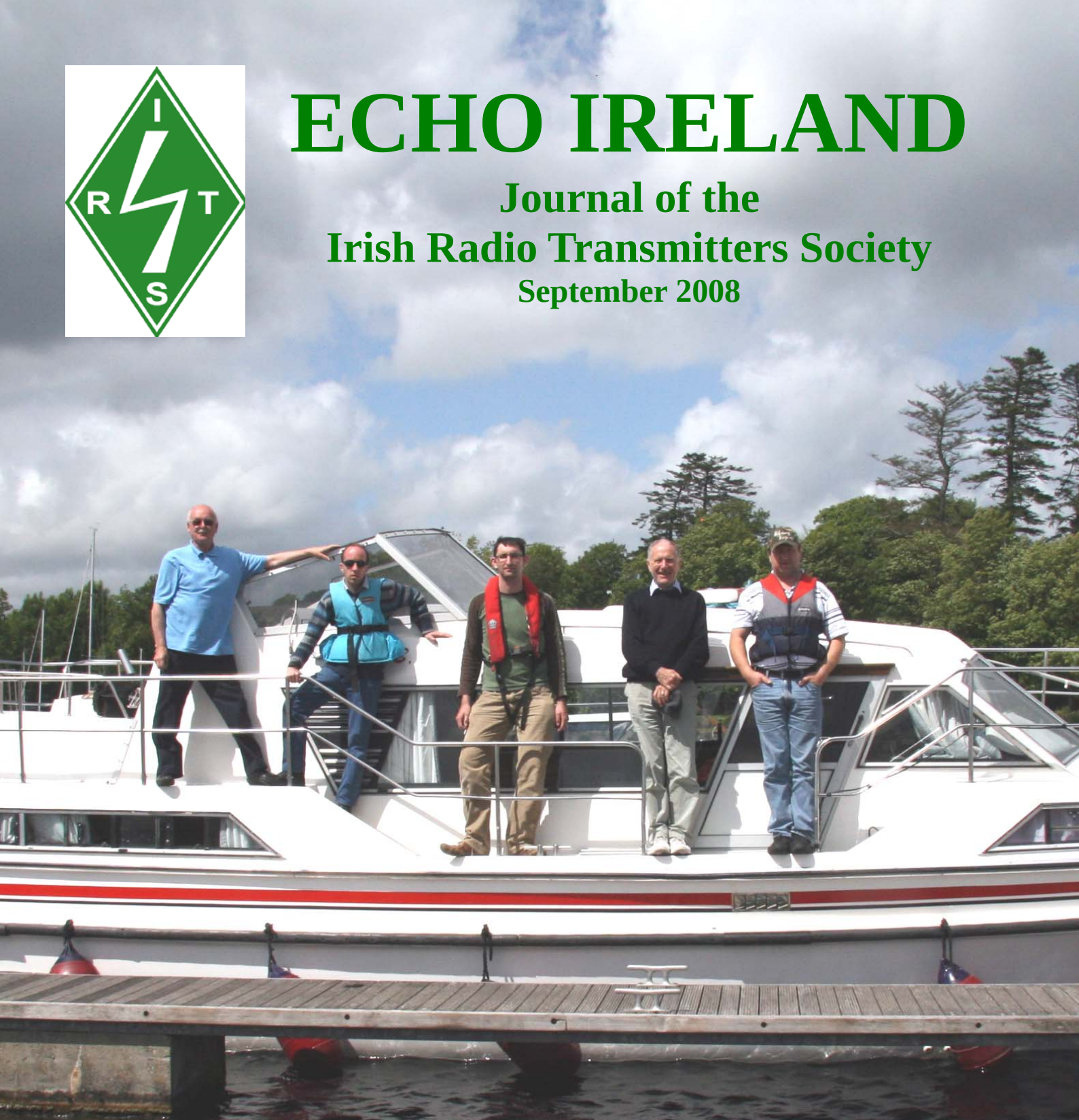
ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society

September 2008



South Dublin Radio Club/M on the Shannon

Story on page 12

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

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Committee Members 2008/09

Elected

Thos Caffrey, EI2JD
Sean Donelan, EI4GK
Ger McNamara, EI4GXB
Brendan Minish, EI6IZ
Mark Condon, EI6JK
Joe Ryan, EI7GY
John Ronan, EI7IG
Seamus McCague, EI8BP
Ger Gervin, EI8CC
John McCarthy, EI8JA
Pat O'Connor, EI9HX

Co-Opted

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
Sean Nolan EI7CD

New Radio News Editor

After over eight years service, Mark Wall EI7IS has stepped down from the post of radio news editor.
The new Editor is Charlie Carolan EI8JB from Navan., Co. Meath and we thank him for volunteering for the task.

We ask that members, especially those involved with clubs and groups keep Charlie informed of any happenings of interest to the experimenter community.



Charlie Carolan EI8JB



Mark Wall EI7IS

Echo Ireland Editor

The committee has for some time being trying to get a volunteer to take as Editor of Echo Ireland without success.

We apologise for the delay is getting out the current issue and can assure members that steps are being taken to get future issues back on schedule.

The committee would appreciate hearing from anyone who is in a position to help in any way with the production of Echo Ireland.
Please contact the President, Finbarr EI1CS on the telephones numbers listed on page 2.

Silent Keys

We regret to announce the deaths of the following experimenters:

EI7Y
Kieran F. Williams,
35 The Rise, Malahide, Co. Dublin
Died June 21st 2008

EI9HU
Brian McCan,
17 Castleowen, Blarney, Co. Cork
Died June 30th 2008

EI4IS/N6CFQ
Charles Carpenter,
Formerly of Crosshaven, Co. Cork and late of Japonica Drive, Lititz, PA
Died Friday 8th August.

EI9CB
Patrick J. McNamara,
Santa Lucia Ballykeelaun, Parteen, Co. Clare.
Died August 19th 2008.
(Obituary on Page 4)

EI5EP/ON4JL
Dr. Luke Dierick,
Coolbawn, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Died September 3rd 2008

EI2CP
Peter Gleeson,
'Tinarana', Killaloe, Co. Clare
Died on September 12th 2008

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of all silent keys.

Important Notice

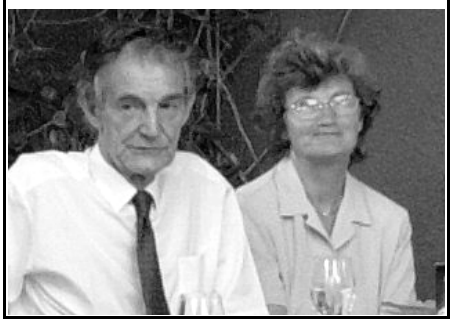
Due to ever increasing spam, we regret that the email address news@irts.ie has had to be discontinued.

All input for the radio news should now be sent to:

newsteam@irts.ie.

Congratulations

Best wishes to Olive and Willie Long EI6AI who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 10th.



JOTA in Swaziland

David GI4FUM/EI4DJis running a DXpedition to Swaziland during October to revisit the Hawane site that the Irish Radio Transmitters Society AFRI75 DXpedition were so successful from in CQWPX SSB - March 2007. We ran a multi two station and made over 9 million points that weekend. We will be operating as 3DA0JOTA for Jamboree on the Air over 18th & 19th October. We will have a group of 20 Swazi scouts camping with us that weekend. It will be their first experience of JOTA. The following weekend I will be operating as 3DA0DJ in CQWW SSB. We will be using the same antenna farm as used by the AFRI75 DXpedition which includes a four square on 40m, verticals for 80m and top band and a log periodic on the higher bands. There may also be activity on AO-51. The station will comprise a FT1000 plus 1kW linear on HF.
We expect to have four or five operators. The callsign 3DA0DJ will be active on HF bands from 18th until 28th October. QSL via GI4FUM - see 3DA0DJ details on QRZ.com

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

Patrick J. McNamara EI9CB
1940 – 2008



Little did I know that when my dad 9CB wrote the obituary for his good friend Seán 4DA in the last issue of Echo Ireland, that I would writing his obituary next. To say I adored my father may sound silly coming from a 44 year old man, but that's the truth.

Dad passed away peacefully in his sleep unexpectedly, on 19th August last, and I had spent the previous afternoon and evening with him doing jobs for him and my mother around the house. He had asked his usual question when I called down to him or he called to my QTH which was "well, any DX?"

I have worked in excess of 200 DXCC entities on under 100W, and I would say maybe I should get an amplifier to work through the pileups. Again, his answer was simple" Son, if you can't hear them, you can't work them, no matter what amount of power you have."

One of the earliest memories I have of my father was when operating on HF from the attic, he came crashing through the ceiling into our bed room and looked a little stunned and said "how ye lads!" What a line.. Paddy had a few beers and as the metal legs on his chair did not agree with the 220V cable the chair was on, when he leaned back he got a big surprise, so did we as small kids! That was the last time a mains cable was left on the surface of the shack.

As a pioneer of HF contesting in EI, some of his achievements were, All Asian DX Contest 1st Place EI, CQWW Contest Phone 1st Place EI & Nr 2 Score in the World, CQWW Contest CW 1st place EI, ARRL DX Contest 1st Place EI 3 times, ARRL Bi-Centennial Contest 1st Place EI, 1st EI Worked All US Counties, 5 Band Worked All Zones, 5 Band DXCC, DXCC 160m, IRTS DX Trophy 3 times winner.

I have great memories of dad in constant QSO on the top of 80m with his friends Pat 8H, George 6S, Rex 7EB, Jim 2BB, John 7BA plus numerous others, well into the early hours of the morning.

Always a man with a cigarette in his hand (he chain smoked while on HF!) I remember when he met his good friend Jim, EI2BB 2 years ago at the Cork Rally after not seeing each other for over 30 years, Jim said "Jasyus Pat, are you still smoking" and dad replied "Jim, I've beaten cancer and they haven't killed me yet!"

Ham Radio took a back seat for dad in the late 80's and he took up writing articles on local history and eventually led him to publishing a number of books of which the Widows Penny & Their Name Liveth for Evermore, chronicling the Limerick men who died in both World Wars, were bestsellers.

In 2004 dad was diagnosed with throat cancer and spent 4 months in St. Luke's Hospital in Dublin and made very good friends among the medical staff, recounting his war history stories to them. He battled hard for the next 4 years and he finished his last book, ironically titled "The Last Farewell" which I hope to have published for him in the next year.

Below is an extract from an article published in The Limerick Leader, days after his death.

City Historian who honoured our world war dead passes on.

Mayor John Gilligan is leading the tributes to Parteen author Patrick J. McNamara, whose painstaking research into the hundreds of Limerick causalities in two World Wars resulted in the most comprehensive record on the subject.

Mr. McNamara, originally from Janesboro in Limerick City, passed away at home on Tuesday 19th August after a long and bravely fought battle with cancer.

At the time of his death, Mr. McNamara was finalising the book which he knew would be his last. Consciously titled "The Last Farewell", the work was a chronicle of more than 500 Clare men and women that perished in the First World War. It follows previous books on the Limerick War dead of the First and Second World Wars, respectively called " The Widow's Penny" and "Their Name Liveth For Evermore" These books not only told of individual tales of heroism and described contemporary Irish attitudes to the wars but also provide a record of every grave and memorial to dead soldiers and civilians.

" I am very sorry to hear Paddy had passed away" said Mayor Gilligan. One of his major achievements was giving the people back their sense of history. Irish people never fully understand the bravery and suffering of Limerick people who went to fight in the World wars. They and their families were officially forgotten about for political reasons. What Paddy McNamara did in no small way was to highlight that.

We are all very much indebted to him."

Paddy McNamara, himself, said he was motivated to write the books because he " thought it was a terrible shame that people who made that sacrifice, and their families were almost afraid to talk about it. Many would have enlisted for idealistic reasons but for many others would have joined to escape poverty in Limerick. I felt that they have been forgotten about and the more I researched it, the more extraordinary I found the stories and the book came from there."

Paddy, who each November attended the ceremony to Limericks War Dead at Perry Square, worked tirelessly to win more recognition for the casualties in their own city. He was instrumental in having the victims of the Irish Pine and other maritime disasters commemorated at Spokane Walk by The Shannon Bridge.

He was also involved in the successful campaign to have Limerick soldier Patrick Downey, unjustly executed by a British army firing squad in Serbia in 1915, given a posthumous pardon by Westminster.

He often took calls from soldiers' relatives in Ireland, the UK, North America & Australia thanking him for his research.

A friend recalled this Wednesday that while lying in Hospital

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
gravely ill, Paddy overheard one nurse say to another that a patient wouldn't last the night,
"That's when he asked for his files and documents and started working away on the new book, The Last Farewell. He said afterwards that those words only motivated him all the more and he was soon out of hospital".
An engineer, he served with the RAF and later worked in Limerick with Telecom Eireann for many years.
A ham radio enthusiast, Paddy also lectured in Limerick on communications.
He was recently awarded honorary lifetime membership of St Mary's Band , whose history he had also researched.
He is survived by his wife Rita; sons Ger, Dermot and Ian; daughter Martina; brothers and sisters; daughter in law, grand-daughters, relatives and friends."

On behalf of my family I would like to sincerely thank the many amateurs who attended my dad's funeral and those who sent mass cards and letters. I am extremely privileged and proud to carry on the ham radio spirit that 9CB passed onto me.
Bye my friend, I will truly miss you.
Ger – EI4GXB

www.irts.ie Echo Ireland Download Page

RTS members who opt to receive the newsletter, Echo Ireland, electronically instead of in hard copy are given a Username and Password which allows them access to the Echo Ireland download page.
This page has recently been extended, and now includes all issues of Echo Ireland from January 2001 to date.
The download page represents a really useful record of radio experimenter activities in Ireland and abroad over the past 7 years.
The use of electronic download also, of course, helps to keep the Society's postage bill to a minimum.
Members who wish to have access to this download page and in future receive Echo Ireland by way of electronic download as an alternative to ordinary mail should contact the Membership Records Officer.
Include your call sign and email address in the request, and send it to:
"memrecords at irts dot ie".

CQ-IR Contest Winner Declan Lennon EI9HQ



IRTS Honorary Vice President Seán Nolan EI7CD presenting his award to the winner of the CQ-IR Contest Declan Lennon EI9HQ

IRTS Committee News

Spectrum Policy

The report of a Working Group on Spectrum Policy established in 2007 was published on Friday 12 September by the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources and is open for public submissions until 28 November 2008.

The purpose of the report is to review the current system of spectrum management with the aim of developing a national spectrum strategy that will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate technological developments as well as supporting and promoting innovation, research and development.

Radio experimenters will be pleased to note that in the context of Drivers of change in Spectrum Management the section on Social, Cultural and Research Factors states
"Spectrum reserved for use by amateurs or for scientific research purposes is vital in helping to ensure an ongoing interest in technology and in furthering our understanding of radio propagation and communications."

The Society will, however, be examining the report in detail, particularly in the light of an international trend for a more flexible management of the frequency spectrum, so that an appropriate response may be prepared and submitted before the deadline of 28 November, 2008. Responses may be e-mailed to SpectrumPolicyConsultation@dcenr.ie and the full paper is available on the Department's website at www.dcenr.gov.ie/Communications

Examination Agreement

A meeting was held on Monday September 15th between representatives of the Society and ComReg which satisfactorily concluded ongoing discussions on the renewal of the examinations agreement.
The new agreement, which will continue over the next three years, will be signed in the near future.
The formal agreement with ComReg under which the IRTS is responsible for setting, organising and correcting the examination for the Experimenter's licence has worked very satisfactorily both from the point of view of ComReg and the Experimenter community.
The arrangement has made the examination, which is the access point to licensed experimental radio, available on a regular basis.
Since IRTS took over responsibility for the examination in May 2005, seven examinations have been held. Almost 150 candidates have sat the examinations and 62 per cent of these obtained the HAREC qualification.



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to the latest edition of HF Happenings. At time of writing, it has been 47 days since we last encountered any sunspots. The entire month of August has been totally spotless. Looking back over the past 150 years, this is only the seventh time that this has occurred and in fact, if this follows suit, cycle 24 is going to produce some rather prominent flares indicating very good propagation for HF communications. Even with having zero sunspots, it is still possible to work some great DX so hopefully many of you will be able to work some of these planned DXpeditions.

Saint Barthelemy.

As a 'new' DXCC entity, this one is still getting a lot of airing lately and yet another trip is planned by an American team. Several reports received recently indicated that the majority of these recent operations from here have been focusing mainly on CW.

This activation however includes an entry in the CQWW SSB DX contest so hopefully it will fill up a few needed 'slots' for many. This American team will be using the TO5DX callsign and will be QRV from 16th to 28th October. The team have a web-page up and running at: http://to5dx.homestead.com/index.html AA4NN will be the QSL manager for this one.

Bangladesh.

This is an entity that is currently ranked as #44 on the Most wanted survey. However, due to recent operations from here and in fact, a few natives being quite active from here in recent months, should see a little movement in this one for next year's survey.

One of these 'natives' has planned a DXpedition to St. Martin's Island (AS-127). St. Martin's Island is a small island in the northeast part of the Bay of Bengal, about 9 km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula, and forming the southernmost part of Bangladesh. It is the only coral island in Bangladesh. It is about 8 km west of the northwest coast of Myanmar at the mouth of the Naf River. The local name of the island is "Narical Gingira", also spelled "Narikel Janjina/Jinjera", translated from Bangla, meaning 'Coconut Island'. Located in Chittagong Region Group, for IOTA, St. Martin's Island is a nice place sure to have a good DXpedition from this "wanted" country. AS-127 has been claimed by: 7.8% of participants in the IOTA awards program. Team members include S21RC and S21AM to date and the team are currently looking for a few more to fulfill this team. As this operation will take place in December, it is presently uncertain of what their callsign will be.

Keep an eye on http://s2iota.eb7dx.com for full information on this as it is released. EB7DX will be handling the QSLing chores for this one.

Tonga.

A Japanese team have announced their plans for a 5 man DXpedition to Tonga taking place from 11th to 17th November. They have each been issued with their own individual callsigns ; JA2AAU-A35AU, JA2AIC-A35IC, JA2LSS-A35SS, JA2ATE-A35TE & JA2ZS-A35ZS.

They will be QRV on all bands from 160M to 10M, operating all modes. QSL each to their own homecall via CBA.

Paupa New Guinea.

Dates have been confirmed for the 5 man team activating various IOTA groups around Paupa New Guinea.

Operating from 17th October to 5th November, AD6E, K6HFA, G3KHZ, CT1AGF & W5GAI, will be operating as P29VLR on Garove Island (OC-181) and will be signing P29NI will on Hermit Island (OC-041). The team also plan to activate Manus Island (OC-025) although a callsign has yet to be determined for here. Hugh, K6HFA intends to do a solo operation from East New Britain (OC-008) and hopes to operate from Tonga, (A35), Samoa, (5W), Nauru (C2), and possibly FW, H4 and VK9 while en-route both to and from Paupa New Guinea. QSL P29VLR via SM6CVX and P29NI via G3KHZ.

Sierra Leone.

This semi rare one was QRV in June as DK2WV, Karl-Heinz was signing 9L0W. During his time here, he was asked if a group of operators could give a Ham Radio course here thus giving prospective candidates the possibility of obtaining licences. As this would certainly see a lot more activity from here, he accepted, and is therefore returning with a team between dates 21st October and 11th November.

DJ4LK, DJ9ZB, DK2WV, DL1YFF will be donating equipment to the University of Freetown. The team will be operating all bands from 160M to 10M running Spiderbeams, phased arrays, K9AY loops and beverages so it can therefore be assumed that they will be concentrating on the low bands.

QSL via DK2WV and a contribution is greatly appreciated as the cost (excluding air fares) is over €14,000 for this trip.

Congo (Republic of).

Those still needing to confirm TN should have ample opportunity to do so as Nicolas, F8FQX has been assigned here for a 3 to 4 year post. Nicolas is currently QRV as TN5SN and is operating all bands SSB, CW and PSK31.

Activity will depend on his schedule but as time progresses, he should have his station fully operational by this Winter. IZ1BZV is his QSL manager.

Desecheo Island (KP5).

Here is a controversial topic at the moment. Despite several so called rumours regarding a full scale operation from here, one has to remember what happened the last time that this rare one hit the airwaves.

December 2005 saw a short lived operation from here when Kamal, N3KS and David, K3LP were fortunate enough to get brief permissions and permits to activate from this much preserved National Wildlife Refuge.

However, just a few hours into their operation a police boat arrived carrying an order to stop all operations from here. The pair were given until daybreak to be all packed up and ready to be escorted off the island.

Despite this order, the pair continued to operate and logged up as many QSOs as possible.

Upon their arrival back to native soil, they learnt that the order had been warranted by a Texan congressman who re-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
markably, was indeed a licensed radio ham himself!!

One issue has been confirmed as being true though. The United States Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) dug back into their files of past candidates who had applied for permissions or had shown interest in going to Desecheo. These applicants received official letters in late June and apparently all were told that they could re-apply.

It is unsure exactly how many have indeed re-applied but by all accounts, some past applications dated back as far as 1997. There is a tentative agreement to facilitate access to the Desecheo Island National Wildlife Refuge by amateur radio operators in conjunction with future USFWS management activities in the refuge. The plan would allow amateur radio operation for up to 14 days under strict guidelines and close USFWS supervision. The following has been submitted by Bernie, W3UR: "USFWS expects to grant a Special Use Permit (SUP) for Amateur Radio operations to one group selected from among large number of prior applicants. These applicants have recently been contacted by the agency and provided a number of stringent requirements that must be met. They were told that if they are still interested in operating from Desecheo they had 45 days to submit a proposal. The letter was dated June 30, 2008, with an August 14th deadline. The final selection will be made based upon which proposal best satisfies USFWS requirements. The timing of this operation is still uncertain but is likely to be in the September through December 2008 time frame.

The actual dates of the operation are dependent on a number of variables, but the team and DXers should have a minimum of 30 days notice."

"We are not sure, but we believe as many as a dozen proposals have been submitted. Apparently, the final selection will be made by a three person panel.

Continue to remain patient as the selection process proceeds.

Apparently, DXers worldwide can look forward to the first USFWS-authorized activation of Desecheo Island in many years."

This is great news and if properly handled by the DX community could possibly lead to future operations from Desecheo and who knows what else!

Glorioso (TO4G) Update.

The following is the latest press release by Didier, F5OGL on the forthcoming Glorioso DXpedition;

Considering numerous rumours spread by non authorized hams about the dates of the next Glorioso 2008 DXpedition, I think I have to give some information to avoid any more errors.

On the island, the anti-cyclonics shelter buildings are nearly finished. The taking over of the French Army sovereignty personnel and the return of the building workers will be effective at the end of August. At the beginning of September, after the last checking of the installations, especially on electricity, all the heavy building gear will be evacuated from the island.

I am, more than ever in very close contact with the military authorities of the French Forces for the South zone of the Indian Ocean, in the Reunion Island.

I've met the new Head of state Chief warrant officer, before his starting for his new 3 year assignment to the zone.

He assured me of his entire support and help for this expedition.

The last problems to be solved are about some local logistic, especially the dates usable for the military plane flights and boat departures, which schedules have nothing in common with commercial ones. I repeat that all the necessary authorisations are in hand.

Believe us about our will to do a most perfect as possible DXpedition to the Glorioso. For that, safety first is our goal.

Know if it could be easy to go, the Glorioso rank in the most wanted list would not be number 4. For another island in the Eparses, Europa 2003, we had to work several years to prepare it before doing.

All the ham operators are personnel of the French Military Defense and they all have professional assignments which have priority over all, included the Ham radio DXpedition.

The major risks in the zone don't allow including civilian ham ops in the crew.

No date is fixed to date, but I'm doing all my best to lead Glorioso 2008 before the end of this year. It must be said that without all combined elements gathered, I prefer postpone the operations as soon as it will be necessary.

I continue to work hard to put the Glorioso on the air and know that's not very easy.

Republic of Kosovo update

(The following is a press release from Martti Laine, OH2BH)

Many have been wondering what the status with regard to the Republic of Kosovo is as of today, both in general and in amateur radio terms specifically.

Substantial progress has been made, and a new approach to get Kosovo totally on its own feet is well on its way. The United Nations (UNMIK) has scaled down its administrative role while the European Union (EULEX) has initiated its supporting role to help integrate the "interim administration" functions into the local institutions.

The United Nations Frequency Management Office (FMO) is one of those local institutions. This Office was responsible for authorizing Amateur Radio operations before and after the Kosovar declaration of independence, but as of today the FMO does not exist nor are licenses issued.

You may still hear some stations operating as YU8 since those licenses issued in the past have not been specifically terminated.

Undoubtedly, Kosovo as a "country" has all required country requirements;

(A) a defined territory,

(B) a permanent population,

(C) a government and

(D) is capable of interacting with other countries with whom it has established diplomatic relations. As of today, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by 46 countries representing many leading states and all geographical continents.

(E)

From an Amateur Radio and DXCC perspective, a great deal of confusing discussion has taken place; one side argues that the DXCC criteria needs to be honored at all times.

Others see the criteria as not being engraved on a tablet of stone but that the rules facilitate "entities" dynamically in the context of an ever-changing world. Both views have some merit and should be appreciated.

Western Sahara (SO), another disputed DXCC country, is currently recognized by 48 countries and even today it is not a member of the United Nations nor does it have a dedicated ITU prefix. At the time

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Amateur Radio entered this desert country, no one had argued that it belonged to DXCC.

When Swains Island was up for DXCC discussion it was decided that the DXCC criteria had to be changed and so Swains entered the scene.

Swains was added not decades ago - but just recently.

Before Swains Island, DXCC used three "measuring sticks"; UN membership, ITU prefix or IARU society.

In facilitating Swains, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to keep the UN and ITU parts but changed the IARU rule to recording of an event by the US Department of State, which again opened up another gate for more DXCC entities.

Now Kosovo meets the highest US Department of State criteria - Kosovo is an independent state recognized by the United States and easily passes the US State Department gate, if that gate is honored in the right spirit.

With DXCC rules in place as they existed before Swains, Kosovo would enter through the IARU gate because of its permanent amateur radio population and its national society, SHRAK.

The above is just an illustration of the dynamics of the DXCC at any given time, following the dynamics of the world.

The world outside Kosovo abounds with many other examples that offer a slightly different perspective in the international arena.

Another oft-mentioned entity - Northern Cyprus - is recognized only by Turkey, and the situation regarding Cyprus remains deadlocked.

Two new cases - South Ossetia and Abkhazia - are recognized by the Russian Federation and probably soon by Belarus (EW) and Venezuela (YV).

If they ever achieve wider recognition apart from the countries subject to the current conflict, they will become another set of DXCC candidates.

An immediate UN membership gate is pointed more in the direction of those that get themselves established with no gun fire. The UN's potential for resolving conflicts to its own satisfaction is seriously hampered by the Security Council veto structure that plays a major role in eliminating new countries at that gate.

So, the ARRL is left to define a workable recognition based country criteria - be it qualitative and/or quantitative.

Kosovo with its almost 50 recognitions is the first one at the gate. Delaying action on the Republic of Kosovo so that it does not qualify for anything is not an option for the ARRL.

Kosovo is a country with a permanent amateur radio population and therefore Kosovar amateurs should be welcomed to our community.

Back to the practical world; YU8/OH2R QSLs for the first amateur radio operation from the Republic of Kosovo were printed last week by Gennady, UX5UO and they will be in the mails in a few days.

We thank Gennady for his efforts and support in making these full-color cards meet the spirit of the Kosovo case as they represent a special moment for those involved with the Kosovo project and those who follow world events as well as the development of the DXCC program.

What's on the Bands?

As mentioned at the start, despite us having zero sunspots for the entire month of August, there is still a lot of DX lingering about.

Definitely, 20m is the bread and butter band at the moment, although 30, 40 & 17m can provide a few nice openings also, so the these bands are definitely worth a look from time to time.

After working FK8CP on 20m CW one morning, I decided to try beaming over the pole and call CQ. Imagine my surprise when several KH6s came back and even V73NS came back a little later.

In fact, 8 mornings in a row, I worked into KH6 and there have been openings on this path too even in the evening time. Don't be under the illusion that the bands are 'dead', they are not.

Even some of the new EI callsigns that are being heard on HF lately are proving to be very active and are getting tremendous results, often with modest equipped stations.

Here is my own log extract from the past period. Using a Optibeam OBW10-5 antenna, 400W and a TS-850 worked the following ***10M*** contacts:

5U5U, JY4NE, HV50VR, HP3AK, GJ6YB, MU0GSY, 7X4AN, 5B4AIF, ZC4LI, GB7HQ, C31PP, OY1CT, EC6UD, GM3IBU, E75DX, JX9JKA, TF8GX & UA2FX.

12M logged : MU0FAL, OZ5ML, HB0CC, LZ1NG, YO4WO, G1OCR, MM3PDM, GW7SMV, LA5WNA, EA8KG, SV1RK, E72WG, ES1BA, OH5KW, 9G5MM, 5U5U, C31JM, TA3J, 9H1NB, R1FJT, OY9R & IS0OMH.

15M netted : ZD8Z, D4C, OJ0A, MW0HMV, MJ0X, TK5EP, 6V7L, 4L4WW, ES2Q, OG0A, YV5JF, JX9JKA & P40PA.

17M worked : K1IED, JA3JOT, D2NX, EL2DX, ZD8LP, GT4IOM, 9G5MM, C91CF, ZD7X, VP2EY, MW0CRI, HI3TEJ, HC8N, 5U5U, ZF2AH, 5H3RK, RA2FF, JX/SQ4MP & OY9R.

20M being the main band worked: KL7HBK, P41USA, BT1OJ, D2NX, 5R8GZ, EL2DX, BX5AA, A92GE, 4U1UN, V51XG, VK9CJW, VU2OO, P29VW, E51JD, FK8CP, XW1B, FW1W, ZD8LP, KL7DX, TY5ZR, 7P8BA, HL0Y/3, TO8S, KH5MB, T88GH, EZ5AL, V73RY, VK9XHZ, C91TK, FH1LE, VK3MO, 6Y5TR, VP2MRM, TO5W, T6AB, SU9GD, TG9NX, OX3XR, ZP6CW, S21SHQ, S21RC, 9G5YK, E20WXA, DU6BG, EP4MRG, 5U5U, ZS6CCY, 5N8NDP, XU7AJW, VP8LP, CE4CT & A71BZ. Using a 80M dipole worked these following ***30M*** contacts: MD0CCE, FG5FR, CU1F, JX/SQ4MP, VO2/NF6J, SY75NW, A71AN, FM5WD, TC0R, 4W6R, YI9WV & HC8N

While using a ***40M*** Windom antenna logged : K0HNM, YV6NE, ZD7X, C91OK, 9G5MM, TF/DL3PS, XW1B, JY4CI, CY0X, YW2AJ, WH6R & YI9WV.

Using just a dipole worked these ***80M*** contacts: D4C, C91TK, FH1LE, 9L0W, SX24ELI & CP4BT.

Eoin, EI9O, worked the following contacts using a Kenwood TS-440 and a 80M dipole across all bands.

On ***15M*** he logged : DH1PS, EA1AIW, F1MUG, G0PVJ, HB9O, IQ6FU, LZ1CC, OD5NH, OM5MO, S51K, SV9DJO & YT0W while ***17M*** netted : 4X4FR, CT2JUT, DL4NI, EA2EA, EI100S, EI9HX, F5SSD, IS0/IW2NEF, LY75SW, OH0JTU, SM0OWX, VP8LP & W2QN. ***20M*** worked : 4Z4DX, 5C9FT, CT3FT, CU1F, EA6BH, HB0/PC5A, HB2008FM, J41THE, K2VV, MJ0X, LA8CNA, ON5GQ, S51ZZ & SI9AM.

Declan, EI9FVB as per usual forwarded his log from the past period. Using his new antenna (3 element SteppIR) and an

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Icom IC 756 ProII he logged on ***10M*** : MM3PDM/M, OZ1ADL, LZ08KM, RA2FV, OZ0BB, TF3ARI, HB2008LC, AO9IB, 7X4AN, LA4XFA, IU9HQ, TM0HQ, LX0HQ, S50HQ, YT8HQ, DA0HQ, GJ6YB, MU0GSY, GB7HQ, 4Z5NU, PA7PA, EI8GS, 5U5U, TK5EP, HP3AK, HB10DX, SM6TOL, OQ5A & 9A5X.

15M worked : HB3YTJ, E77AA, S50A, OZ1ADL, OK1MX, DJ0DX, 5N8NDP, C31PP, SV9CVY, ES5QD, TK5EP, 5B/G0TSM, GM2T, YL7X, DR6IOTA, 5Q2T, 4L0A, YR0HQ, 5B4AII, GB7HQ, IU5HQ & OZ1HQ.

17M worked : EA8EQ, TM8BS, CE4WJK, LU5FF, TI8II, 5B4KH, HK6P, W4ETB, LU8YE, YU8/S56M, RA2FF, OS7A, ZD8LP, 4L6DL & VX1FA.

20M being his main band logged : E71AA, 5Z4/RW1AU, 4O3A, 7X2EB, 4U1WB, CQ9500DL, 3G47TA, YV5MSG, ZD8LP, AY0DX, BT1OB, A92C, VU2OO, 9Y4D, CN8ZG, 5D0IPY, TA0D, LZ3FN, VA2AAB, EW6GF, HK3JJH, KH2RU/KP4, JX9JKA, EL2AR, YW5IOTA, CX5BW, VK3MO, CP6XE, TY5ZR, 9H9PYSM, UA9PC, YO9BXC, YN2N, LX7I, HF64PW, C91CF, 7X5VRK, TF3BM, VP8LP, GJ6YB, MJ0X, JY4CI, A92GF & LZ08KM. Using dipoles for both 40M and 80M he logged : OE2008MCU, YL4HQ, OY9R, RX3DTN, YO8KRR, PE2MC/P & DL50SOP all on ***40M*** while ***80M*** scooped : TM0G, LX0HQ, OP0HQ, LY7M, YT5A & UT1DX.

I'd like to welcome ***John, EI9JO*** who is yet another '9' who has submitted his log extract for the past 2 months and I thank him for his participation.

Running an Icom IC 756 ProII into a Hy-Gain vertical antenna he logged these ***10M*** qso's: CT3FQ, OY9R, AN5KB & EA2RCF while ***17M*** worked : OH2BD, LA4UOH, ON7DDG & ZP6/DL7UFN. On ***20M*** he logged some 114 qso's which included : VO1WGK, CS6AFATI, PY2DU, YV5JF, NP2IA, 6W1SJ, CX7TT, LU9FFZ, OY/DL2MLU, PJ4NX, LU8YE, K1RED, KP2/AA1BU, HC2FN, C37RC, VX1QD, GB5HQ, YN2N, T77NM, HK3JJH, JW2/SM6DQR, TF/M0SCH, SH8IP, CN33M, JA7AKH, AO9IB, 7X5VRK, 8P6BU, HI8ALM & UA9KZ.

Using a dipole antenna for ***40M*** logged : EA/PA3DKT/mm, EJ3HB (EU-007), GB2TER, OY9R, DL6SX & GS8R.

73

Dave EI9FBB

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

September 2008

20-21	Sat 0300 - Sun 0300	JLRS Party Contest	Phone
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
20-21	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	QCWA QSO Party	All
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	RTTY
20-21	Sat 0300 - Sun 0300	JLRS Party Contest	CW
27-28	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB

October 2008

4	Sat 0000 - 2400	The PSK31 Rumble	PSK
4- 5	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest	Phone
4	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Autumn	SSB
5	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest 6m	CW/Phone
5	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	CW/SSB
10	Fri 0001 - 2359	10-10 International Day Sprint	All
11-12	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest	CW
11	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Autumn	CW
11	Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Fall Sprint	CW
12	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest 80 m	SSB
18-19	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest	CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 1600 - Sun 2359	W/VE Islands QSO Party	All
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL International EME Competition	All
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest	SSB
25-26	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Intern. Fall QSO Party	CW/Digi

November 2008

1- 7	Sat 0000 - Fri 2400	HA-QRP Contest	CW
1	Sat 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (1)	CW
1- 2	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB
1	Sat 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (2)	CW
1- 3	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	CW
2	Sun 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (3)	SSB
2	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1)	CW
2	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona"	Digi
2	Sun 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (4)	SSB
2	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2)	CW
8- 9	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest	RTTY
8- 9	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest	Phone
8- 9	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest	CW
15-16	Sat 1600 - Sun 0700	All Austrian 160 m Contest	CW
15-17	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	SSB
15-16	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
21	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest	PSK31
22-23	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 *?*	ARRL International EME Competition	All
22-23	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest	CW/SSB
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest	CW

December 2008

5 - 7	Fri 2200 - Sun 1600	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	CW
6	Sat 0000 - 2400	TARA RTTY Mêlée	RTTY
6- 7	Sat 1600 - Sun 1800	TOPS Activity Contest	CW
12	Fri 2100 - 2300	Russian 160 Meter Contest	CW/Phone
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	28 MHz SWL-Contest	CW/Phone
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL 10 meter Contest	CW/Phone
13-30	Sat 0001 - Tue 2359	Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	All
20	Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
20	Sat 0000 - 2400	Russian Digital + SSTV Contest	Digi
20-21	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
20-21	Sat 1600 - Sun 1559	International Naval Contest	CW/SSB
26	Fri 0830 - 1059	DARC XMAS-Contest	CW/SSB
27	Sat 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/Phone
27-28	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge	CW

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

SM3CER Contest Service http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/

International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System

Overview

The IARUMS does NOT deal with licensed amateurs who do not follow IARU rules, band plans etc. and is only directed against intruders such as broadcast stations, harmonics from broadcast stations (usually from 40 meters appearing on 20 meters or 15 meters), military, diplomatic and illicit private broadcasts, on our hard fought for amateur bands.

IARUMS has a well-documented system of successful actions taken against intruders on the amateur bands, the latest from EI being the church broadcasts on 10 metres FM.

The general release of the 70 MHz band and the allocation of frequencies at 5 MHz from COMREG, shows the continual hard work being carried out by the IRTS to protect and enhance the amateur bands for all experimenters in Ireland.

To highlight the important work done by monitoring system member societies in Region 1, some recent news includes:

14005 kHz – SOH and Hainan jammer

Sound of Hope (BC from Taiwan) and the Chinese jammer were audible many days on 14005 kHz, despite the numerous complaints!

14055 kHz – IM product from BBC World

An IM product from BBC World disappeared after few days from 14055 kHz.

Grateful words to the British PTT (Ofcom – Baldock)!

14102 kHz – Stanag 4481

Stanag 4481 (100 Bd, 850 Hz shift) between ships (near Malaga) and north of Athens, daily, various times.

14208.510 kHz – embassy traffic

The digital system DPRK-FSK 600 (600 Bd, 600 Hz shift) was often active on 14208.510 kHz at 1100 utc.

Location: Libya. Probably digital traffic from the North Korean embassy in Libya.

14285 kHz – BC Intermodulation product

I found a strong intermodulation product on 14285 kHz and asked DJ9KR, DF5SX and the German PTT (BNetzA) for assistance.

The results: Voice of Russia: 15455 kHz – China Radio International: 1170 kHz Calculation: 15455 – 1170 = 14285.

Many thanks to DJ9KR, DF5SX and the German BNetzA.

An official complaint from the BNetzA has been filed.

Codar HF Radar on 24 MHz from Naples / Italy – complaints are running

IK8OZZ (Luigi) and DJ9KR (Uli) tried to give their best to stop this terrible interference on 24 MHz.

The German PTT (BNetzA) sent an official complaint to the Italian authorities. Many thanks dear Luigi and Uli and of course grateful words to the German BNetzA, too!

UNIFIL

On September 1 I reported to COMREG the use of 14.005 USB SSB by UNIFIL based in Lebanon .

Since the beginning of the month of April 2008 Amateur Radio stations have been regularly complaining about a net in English language exchanging the positions, directions and speed of ships and unknown objects“ in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Very often the harbour of Beirut or the Lebanese Navy is mentioned.

The Net Control Stations seems to be “Mike-India-Oscar” MIO.

The call signs used by the UNIFIL ships or base stations in Lebanon are/were: Alpha-515, Charlie-1, Sierra-1, Echo-4, Echo-6, Echo-08, Echo-17, November-1, Mike-India-Oscar, Mike-India-Oscar-3, and Mike-1093 (incomplete)

This voice traffic usually lasts the whole day with intervals and with no fixed schedule times and is causing harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service.

I would be very grateful for help in identifying intruders on our amateur bands and have included a template below which experimenters in EI can use to report intruders to me.

This template is also available as a Word Document, which I can email on request. The IARUMS also publish a monthly newsletter which is I can email to anybody interested, just send me an email and I will include you on my list.

It is highly important that we protect our bands for future generation of amateurs and if we do not report intruders we will lose our very hard fought for bands.

Further information can be found on www.irts.ie/cgi/links_2.cgi or the IARUMS Region 1 website at www.IARUMS-R1.ORG

Please feel free to contact me with any queries or comments at ei4gxb@gmail.com 087-2532512 or at home on 061-354922 any evening after 1900.

Ger McNamara

EI4GXB

IARUMS Co-Ordinator for Ireland.

Soc	kHz	UTC	DD	MM	ITU	Ident	Mode	BD	SH	Details

SOC = National Radio Club or Society: kHz = frequency: UTC = universal time coordinated (GMT): DD = date (day of month): MM = month: ITU = ITU-abbreviation (3 letters): IDENT = ident, call, selcall: MODE = like J3E, A3E, F3E, F1B, G7B, J7D: BD = baud: SH = shift: Details = observed details.

A Day in the Life of Spectrum

I wake up at 6am to the alarm clock radio bringing me news that the world's population is expected to grow significantly over the coming decades, with the main increases occurring in the developing countries and that global warming will impact severely on global food production – news brought to me by the radio in the VHF-FM band 87.5 to 108 MHz.

From checking my diary I see that my meeting schedule is quite full this morning, so I need to get a move on! I go to the garage and unlock the car and garage doors with two remote keys – each operating at around 433 MHz.

On the M50, the traffic update signs warn me of a delay ahead – they and the cameras that detect the traffic are linked back to the control room using 5.8 GHz fixed links.

I cross over the M50 toll plaza. There's a 'bleep bleep' as I pass through the toll gates – my E-Tag operating at around 5 GHz.

Just then the mobile rings – at 900 MHz – and I use the hands-free, operating wirelessly with 'bluetooth' at 2.4 GHz.

It's our Media Manager asking me to come into the office early to discuss a breaking story.

At last I arrive at the office car park. My 433 MHz swipe card opens the car park boom gates. My 433 MHz key locks the car doors. A 24 GHz motion detector keeps my vehicle safe throughout the day. As I approach the entrance to the office, I swipe my card using 13.6 MHz and the door opens.

At my desk I open my laptop and catch the latest overseas market reports – coming directly to the antenna on the roof of our office, via satellite, at 11 GHz.

I make a couple of phone calls from a cordless phone operating at 1890 MHz, and then it's time for the 9am video conference with a colleague in Cork. The video is streamed using a variety of fixed and wireless links at 18 GHz and 7.5 GHz.

At 10.30, I leave the office to fly to Cork for an important meeting.

At Dublin airport I have half an hour to kill because the flight's been delayed - a chance to buy some birthday presents. I buy my son a miniaturised helicopter – which operates in the 27 MHz band – and a new mobile phone for my daughter – this one can download video on the 3G 2100 MHz band. At the checkout the gifts are scanned at 865 MHz I hear the boarding call and make my way to the Gate.

Twenty minutes later the plane is taxiing along the runway – ground guidance courtesy of 121.8 MHz. Takeoff.

In the cockpit, pilot and crew are busy monitoring the instrument panels – air traffic control direct them using radar in the 2.9 GHz and 1.03 GHz bands – GPS guidance on 1600 MHz establishes the correct course to Cork – air traffic control coming in at 118.6 MHz ensures traffic avoidance – automatic direction finding at 362 kHz makes sure we stay on course.

At Cork airport, air traffic control on 119.3 MHz authorises the plane to land. An Instrument Landing System at 109.9 MHz brings it down safely, even though visibility is limited.

The plane is guided to the gate by the controller using surface radar operating at 15GHz.

My taxi, despatched on 452 MHz, takes me to my meeting destination, where it's meetings, emails, phone calls, emails, phone calls, meetings – one blurring into another – and then it's back in the taxi, onto the plane, and takeoff!

I make it home in time for the nine o'clock news – brought to me on spectrum in the 470 to 862 MHz UHF broadcast band and linked from the TV studio to the transmitter at 6 GHz.

My son is watching a DVD, but I'm in no mood for an argument, so I pack him off to the other TV where he tunes in at 12 GHz from the satellite overhead.

I turn back to the news where there is a live-cross – using 7.5 GHz – to an outside broadcast unit reporting on the days events at the Dáil.

I go to the Met Eireann site to check details of the weather report I heard on the news. The colour weather images from radar operating at 5.6 GHz confirm that a storm is on its way from the south west. Somewhere overhead a meteorological satellite is using five different bands to gather the data used in meteorological modelling. I go out to close the garage door – at 433 MHz.

Back in the house, I shut all the windows and doors. In the kitchen, I microwave last night's leftovers – at 2.4 GHz.

Back in front of the TV, I put up my feet and wait for the storm to arrive.

This is today. It could be any day. A day in my life. A day in your life. A day of normal activities for which we depend on spectrum.

And what about tomorrow?

In the future, more and more devices in your house will communicate wirelessly, using bands like 2.4 GHz, 5.8 GHz, 80 GHz, and maybe even infrared. This will need more spectrum.

Our children will soon download entertainment on demand, requiring ten times the bandwidth we're using today. This will need more spectrum. You will be able to watch mobile TV and access the internet, no matter where you are. In fact, the world will become your virtual office, whether you're sitting at home, in your favourite café, or on the move in a taxi or train. This will need more spectrum.

Global warming will mean that earth-monitoring is more important than ever, not just to monitor the fingerprints of nature – those little signals that let us predict the weather – but to check up on producers of greenhouse gases and destroyers of forests. This will need more spectrum.

But there is one issue that needs to be addressed.

Spectrum is a limited resource and we need to be smarter in how we manage and use it.

(This extract is acknowledged to the Report of the Working Group on Spectrum Policy published by the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources in September, 2008 and is based on the opening address by Chris Chapman to the inaugural ACMA Radiocommunications Conference 2006)

Drama on the High Seas (on the Shannon)

By Daniel EI9FHB

Recently South Dublin Radio Club headed off down the inland waterways of the Shannon.
The aim was to work a few EIs and explore the beautiful countryside and lakes.

We hired an eight bed boat from Banagher and headed south through the Meelick lock and we tied up alongside in Portuma overnight to see the town and sample the ale.

The next morning we headed south through Portumna swing bridge and into Lough Derg (Ireland's second largest lake).
The visibility was great for our long haul down the lake.
We visited Garrykennedy for lunch and a walk about before heading down to Killaloe for the night.
After sampling more ales we headed back the next day towards Portumna.

We had great fun operating radio with CW and voice communication in use. We used a motorised vertical antenna intended for vehicle use that worked great when adapted and mounted on the boat.
We were also monitoring the marine band for weather reports and boats in distress.

The next day we called into Mountshannon and looked around at the sights.
At this stage a few operators had red faces, thankfully only due to the sun!

On the way back up the lake we were heading through a narrow channel next to Benjamin Rocks. Then a cry came from below decks, 'THE ENGINE IS ON FIRE!'

Quick thinking averted disaster as we dropped anchor and cut the engine. We were considering calling SOS on 500kHz CW but then we remembered that the coastguard have stopped monitoring this frequency and we may only get experimenters calling back.
We also considered calling mayday on 2182kHz but as we were not in immediate danger of life we said we would hold off for a minute or two.
We also had a couple of Marine VHF sets which were at the ready as we all donned our lifejackets and prepared to board the rowboat, Titanic style.





The fire turned out to be actually steam, not smoke and further investigation traced the fault to a faulty water cooling pump.

Luckily, our boat hire company quickly got us towed ashore and repaired the fault and less than four hours later we were on our way again. We did keep checking the temperature gauge every five minutes, as we didn't fancy being stranded out on the lake overnight.

Overall everyone had a great time and we hope to head back again next year.

On the high seas were EI2JL, EI9FHB, EI7HT, EI3DY, EI6JT, EI9JF and a YL and XYL



South Dublin Radio Club is always looking for new members, visitors and ships captains.
As well as boating we also partake in the Islands On The Air competition from the Aran Islands on the last weekend every July and the Lighthouses on the air event from various locations.
We take part in field days and have regular talks on technology.
If you would like to get involved come to one of our weekly meetings in Rathfarnham, Dublin.

See www.southdublinradioclub.ie

Club meetings *and radio theory classes* are held every Tuesday night from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm in the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham.

Limerick Radio Club


Tarbert Lighthouse

Members of Limerick Radio Club took part in the recent International Lighthouse Weekend from Tarbert Island Lighthouse in the Shannon Estuary (Lighthouse No. IRE 073).

Two stations were in operation over the weekend and more than 300 contacts were made.

Those taking part included Dermot EI2GT, Tony EI2AW, Mike EI2IX, John EI6IW, Ger EI4GXB, Alan EI8EM and Tom EI3AL.

Anyone requiring a QSL card should contact the QSL Manager, Alan EI8EM.

The next meeting of the Club will be on the Thursday 9th of October at the usual venue, the Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish at 19:30 local time.

All those interested are welcome to attend.

IRTS President EI1CS visits Dundalk A.R.S.



Seated: Derek EI7CHB; John EI8AR; IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS; Thos EI2JD; Pat EI2HX.

Standing: Michael: Richard MI3CQR; Kieran EI9DA; Oleg EI2JK: Doug EI2CN: Peter EI4HX.

Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association

Congratulations to Dave and Bryan of the Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association who recently passed their experimenters theory examination.

The club was founded on the ethos of passing the test by a small group of lads wanting to get their ticket.

The classes are continuous on Wednesday nights from 20:30-22:30. Morse tuition is also being carried out. Call Mikle EI2GKB contact number 087-2481970 for details.

Classes are also continuing in South Dublin Radio Club on Tuesday nights from 20:00-22:00 contact as above.

A.R.E.N. News

Sean Kelly Tour

On the 24th of August AREN members made good use of the APRS Network, in order to keep track of the position of the end of each group of cyclists participating in the Sean Kelly Tour.

Good use was also made of the South East Repeater Network for communicating with officials in what would have been communications blackspots (for the mobile phone networks).

In total there were 8 operators involved:

Seamus Ryan, EI8EPB
John McCarthy, EI8JA
Eamonn Kavanagh, EI3FFB
Gareth Wilmot, EI7FZB
Francis Lenane, EI5GOB
John Ronan, EI7IG
Conor O'Neill, EI4JN
John Ketch, EI2GN

Many thanks to all that participated and to the repeater keepers for permission to use the repeaters.

New Handbook published.

Members without email should keep an eye on the post box over the next 2 weeks or so, as the new Handbook should be arriving. If it has not arrived by the end of the month, please contact John, EI7IG.

AREN in the hills.

Two AREN members, Conor EI4JN and Tim EI5GPB, provided radio communications for a walk over the Purple and Twomies mountains on Saturday last in the McGillicuddy Reeks.

The almost 8 hour walk passed without incident.

AREN Committee Meeting

The AREN committee met in Cork on Sunday the 14th of September.

Items for discussion included activities since April, new members, the appointment of Assistant Co-ordinators, November SET, winter training nets, information gleaned from the recent SEVESO Seminar and Training Day and planning for next years AREN meeting.

John Ronan, EI7IG
AREN Co-ordinator
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Friedrichshafen 2008

The annual DARC rally has over the years become very popular with Irish hams. This year was no exception with between twenty and thirty members travelling there either by car, or flying from either Dublin or Cork via Stansted or Zurich.
As usual the weather was lovely and hot with temperatures on some days reaching 30deg.C

This year the Society had a stand for the second time and it turned out a great success. We had learned from last year and were more prepared. This time Failte Eireann provided us with a sizable quantity of literature about Ireland, printed in German, French, Italian and English. This was in the form of books and posters with colourful pictures of Ireland. These were delivered from Frankfurt where they were printed. They went well and provide a colourful backdrop.
Thanks to Paul EI2CA the Society also had a nice selection of pictures of amateur activities in Ireland. And of course there were the sweets ! as well as some other refreshments which also went down very well.
Our near neighbours , the RSGB and ARRL commented on the numbers our stand attracted. It became a meeting place for those who were weary from walking around.
Most of all it became a place to leave ones "bag of goodies" while continuing on around. We Irish are great talkers and many visitors came and asked about Irish music and groups etc.
As well as the IRTS , the Irish Air Balloon club also had a stand which was manned by Aidan, Sean and Gerry.
Ireland was well represented.
This year the overall attendance was down a little, as well as the number of stands in the Main Hall. Nevertheless there was a nice atmosphere and Friedrichshafen and Lake Constance or Bodensee, as the Germans call it, is particularly picturesque and ideal for a holiday.

The main hall consisted mainly of stands by societies and commercial organisations. Here one could spent literally thousands on gear. Apart from the Main Hall there were three other halls for the 'bring and buy' or flea market, where one could purchase almost anything. Most amateurs head there to find the bargains. For anyone who was never in Friedrichshafen it is worth noting that it is more than just the stands and the flea market.
There were also a number of meetings and receptions taking place in different areas most of the time. Some dealing with IARU Region 1 business others with areas such as six metres, emergency network etc.
Unfortunately most of these were in German.
We were invited to the opening by the Mayor of Friedrichshafen, and the DARC president as well as Region 1 president. The occasion was graced with a lively jazz band .
Another very interesting gathering was the IARU Region 1 meeting where representatives of the countries in the region attended. All delegates introduced themselves and gave a brief account of what was happening in their country. There were delegates from the middle east as well as Europe. What made the occasion singularly unique was the presence of the IARU president and Vice President as well the presidents of the three regions of the world.
It was interesting to hear how amateur radio region is doing in these countries. Many commented that they were constrained in different ways in the pursuit of their hobby by their licencing authorities as well as local laws.
Matters such as radiation, increased urbanisation, planning laws, external antennas etc are some of the obstacles that they have to contend with.
We in Ireland should be grateful that we are more fortunate in many ways.



Pat EI2HX, Jim Smith EI4CP, Dave EI4BZ, Jim EI8GS

Needless to say we had the usual hiccups. I flew there on the Wed. Next day (Thursday)was the day to set up the stand, the opening being on Friday morning. Come Thursday no one arrived until evening time when Sean EI7CD and Sean EI4GK arrived around 8pm. It was too late.
Then Dave EI4BZ who was coming by caravan got a puncture and was 200km away. The booklets from Failte Eireann had not arrived. Come Friday morning at 8.15am Dave arrived we all headed for the exhibition. The Failte Eireann literature had arrived the previous evening at 6pm and was left at the Finnish stand !!!. I am sure the Finns must have been wondering how they should be advertising Ireland. But all turned out well.

With a determined will, and a great combined effort we were ready for opening. A special word of thanks must go to Sean EI7CD and Sean EI4GK for their effort to get the show on the road, and also to all those who got stuck in.

An interesting comment in our guest book on the stand were the comments from OE2EGL "Thanks for voting the right way" !!



Aidan EI2HW, Sean EI7CV and Gerry EI9DZ





Charlie GI4FUE and Thos EI2JD



Sean EI4GK and Hilary G4JKS



Pat EI2HX, Sean EI7CD, Willie EI6AI, Ingo DH5ST , Breda EI 896 & Jim EI8GS



Pat EI2HX, Slavek EI7JW/OK1TN, Dave EI4BZ & Jarra DL1YD



Larry EI9CN and Finbarr EI1CS



EMC Notes

With Brendan Minish EI6IZ

Computer Power Supplies

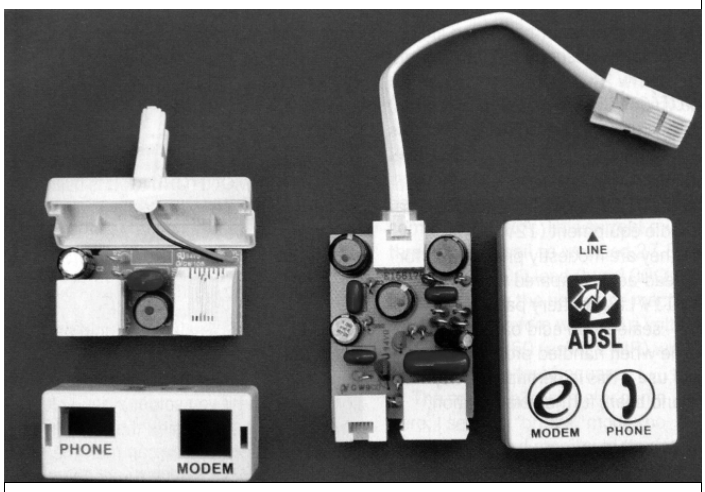
In Radcom recently there have been reports of Computer power supplies that being sold with a CE mark yet do not have the appropriate EMC filtering fitted internally. It is possible that the manufacturer fitted filtering to obtain certification but then omitted the filtering from the production units to save costs.
A CE label does not absolve the importer or vendor of their responsibility under the CE regulations, if anyone runs into a PC power supply of this nature being sold in the Irish market I would be interested in hearing from you.

Telephone interference

Telephone interference and interference to DSL can be a problem for some .
The first step is to examine your station configuration with a critical eye and see if there are ways that the amount of RF induced into the phone line and the other household wiring can be reduced. Use baluns and balanced tuners effectively, try and avoid running antennas parallel to the phone line for long distances etc. Good EMC housekeeping may also help to reduce local noise levels and improve your ability to hear weak signals

Now spend some time identifying the affected handsets or devices, then unplug the others, did the issue go away? Unplug the remaining devices one by one. The RF ingress may be occurring at one device but the actual rectification (or RF overload) and resultant interference could be happening at another device.

The next step towards resolving the issue is to use common mode chokes on the connecting cables going to affected handsets and devices. Up to 12 turns around a ferrite ring may required to be effective at 80m.
Do not discount the possibility that the ingress may be occurring by means of the power or data leads going to devices connected to the telephone system.



Two Types of ADSL microfilter

Copyright RSGB

If common mode chokes do not alleviate the issues then the issue may be a differential mode ingress problem. This can often be addressed by using low pass filters at each handset. It used to be hard to obtain Differential mode RFI filters, however it appears that the DSL microfilter should make an effective low pass filter and these are now widely available. Not all DSL filters are the same internally and ones using 3 or more poles of filtering will be far more effective at eliminating RFI than small single pole filters.

If you need further advice and assistance with EMC issues please get in touch with me.
Brendan EI6IZ
ei6iz.brendan@gmail.com
086 2501832

IRST President visits Limerick Radio Club



Left to right: Ger EI4GXB, Pat EI7FHB, Tony EI2AW, IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, Alan EI8EM, John EI6IW, Dermot EI2GT, Maurice EI3JF, SWL, Brian EI9AL, Tom EI5CA, Tom EI3AL, Simon EI7ALB
Missing from picture is Michael EI2IX who took the photo.

Islands On The Air Contest 2008

The Islands On The Air contest, which takes place over the last weekend in July every year, is always well supported in Ireland. The island of Ireland and its coastal islands offer six separate IOTA references to choose from, and three of these were activated during this year's contest.

EJ0GI (EU-006)
South Dublin Radio Club and City of Belfast Radio Amateur Society combined on Inis Oirr again this year for the 5th consecutive time and despite the conditions, they set a new record score for themselves. They get better every year.
(See story on following pages)

GI0MPG (EU-122)
Sean EI4GK, Declan EI9HQ and Joe EI7GY are another group of regular IOTA contesters. They tend to operate from a different island every year, and this year they decided to try Rathlin Island, off the coast of Antrim.
Following a visit by Sean and Joe to Rathlin earlier in the year, they identified the East Lighthouse as a suitable QTH for the contest.
Interestingly the East Lighthouse was the site of the first radio experiments carried out on Irish soil – this was in July 1898, when Marconi's assistants set up a successful demonstration of radio communications from Rathlin Island to Ballycastle.

For the contest, Sean, Declan and Joe were joined by Pete EI4GZB (recently licensed and experiencing his first contest) and Pete GI4VIV (who was with the AFRI75 group during their visit to Swaziland in 2007).
The group used Joe's call sign GI0MPG.

The GI0MPG antennas consisted of two tri-banders for 10-15-20m, a vertical and a dipole for 40m and a dipole for 80m. This gave them over 1,700 QSOs (40% CW) and a claimed score of 2.4 million points.

GI3YS (EU-122)
Rathlin Island was also the contest QTH for the Kilmarnock and Loudoun Amateur Radio Club, who have been coming to Rathlin for this contest for the past 10 years.
This year they operated from the island's village using the call sign GI3YS.
Using low power (100W) and with just 3 antennas, they achieved their target of 1,000 QSOs.



GI0MPG Team :- Declan EI9HQ, Pete EI4GZB, Pete GI4VIV, Joe EI7GY and Sean EI4GK


Sean EI4GK & Declan EI9HQ working the pileups at GI0MPGs on Rathlin Island.

EI0W (EU-115)
The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society, call sign EI0W, operated from Clogherhead with a multi-national team.
The station had been completely rebuilt, both shack and aerials, in the weeks leading up to the contest and expectations for a good score were high.
Unfortunately, their best laid plans were disrupted when unexpected computer problems delayed their start by a few hours but they still finished up with around 1,900 QSOs.
A valuable lesson was learned and the should not be caught out again.

Single Operator Stations (EU-115)
Perhaps around 30 other EI, GI and MI call signs were heard during the contest. The list of logs submitted by the single operator EI/GI/MI stations includes a mixture of 12 hour and 24 hour operation, with a majority working SSB only.

Band Conditions
As can be expected, 20 metres produced the most QSOs, however with the help of Sporadic E, 10 metres and 15 metres contributed a lot more to the overall score in 2008 than in recent years.
Although 80 metres failed to produce the usual run of local QSOs, 40 metres seemed particularly strong this year.

Active EI stations.
The following stations were mentioned on the DX Cluster network during the contest.
EI/DK2AT, EI/W5GN, EI0W, EI2GLB, EI2HW, EI2II, EI2IP, EI3GN, EI3HA, EI3IO, EI3JE, EI4CF, EI4GXB, EI4II, EI5DI, EI5DR, EI5GM, EI6HB, EI6IZ, EI7JN, EI7JR, EI8BEB, EI8GS, EI8JR, EI9FBB, EI9FVB, EI9GRC, EI9HX, EI9JU

Islands On The Air Contest DXpedition - EJ0GI on Inis Oirr

Every year on the last weekend in July, the focus of the amateur radio world is on islands for the IOTA Contest.
Regular visitors to the smallest of the three Aran Islands is a team made up of members from South Dublin Radio Club and the City of Belfast Radio Amateur Society.
This is their story as told by team member Gerry GI0RTN.

The EJ0GI operation is in the DXpedition class. All equipment is taken on and off the island by ferry and as the Inis Oirr ferry is not a car ferry, we have to load everything on off the boat ourselves. There's no convenient roll-on-roll-off ferry service for us! This makes keeping weight down absolutely vital.

For the 5th year in a row, a combined team from the South Dublin Radio Club and City of Belfast Radio Amateur Society travelled to Inis Oirr (population 280), on the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland, for the IOTA contest.
Due to time constraints for several operators, we arrived on the island on the Wednesday evening boat and left on the Monday afternoon boat, rather than spending our habitual week on the island, which limited pre-contest activity.

Our score is 40% higher than our previous record.
Doubtless, this was helped by considerable Sporadic E, but we are still chuffed. Every year we get a little bit better. This year we didn't really work any more QSOs than last year, but we did work *better* QSOs - more 15 pointers and vastly more multipliers. We still do not seem to be loud enough to generate or maintain real pileups on SSB, but CQ + CW = instant pileup in this contest for much of the time. The trick is to handle the sometimes frenzied packet pileups without letting rate collapse.

For all the E layer was hopping, the F layer was in odd shape with great conditions on 20 and 40 on Sunday morning, but the bands feeling in very poor shape late on Saturday evening.
We suffered significant problems with internet connection throughout the contest. Inis Oirr is on satellite broadband but this struggled for much of Saturday evening and into the wee hours of Sunday morning.
We also suffered from networking problems in the latter stage of the contest. Our run station log started collapsing on us at 2-5 minute intervals after about 1000Z. At least the multiplier station log was working OK, but several times we had to run away from pileups abruptly while we sorted the chaos out.



GI8SKN in full flow on an 80m SSB run.


GI0PCU and EI9JF use a software based antenna analyser to tune the 40m vertical array.

Apologies for that.
For the last 75 minutes of the contest, we logged on paper on the run station!
The whole island also suffered a three hour power cut on Thursday which shook us all a little and would have landed us in deep trouble had it happened during the contest.

Band by band summary:
80m - usually a stellar performer with our big vertical, 80 was poor this year.
High levels of static throughout and a fair bit of ionospheric distortion later in the night made signals difficult to copy, while there seemed to be a sort of proto-skip zone later in the night, making G/EI signals weak. Runs were primarily into central and eastern Europe limiting our number of 15 pointers.
This is a real problem as 80 SSB is usually the bread and butter band for working those vital 15 pointers into Britain.

40m - on the other hand 40 was often superb, and GI0PCU's reconstruction of our vertical array seems to have paid real dividends. Long path signals from the South Pacific boomed in at our sunrise, adding some valuable multiplierss.
QSOs deep into both the USA and Asia were commonplace, especially on CW.
9M6 called us for a great multiplier on SSB. We had lots of fun on 40.

20m - a bit of a curate's egg.
We were tickled to work Hawaii on both CW and SSB, not something we do every year, along with some great west coast, African and Caribbean multipliers. Short skip ensured many 15 point Gs called in.
Runs into central and eastern Europe on CW were instantaneous and never ending.
On the other hand, despite reorienting our 4-square specifically to work JA, our habitual sunset pipeline to Japan never appeared. A JA8 called us in the first hour of the contest, giving us hope that we were going to be in 15 point heaven come 2030Z, but it just never happened.
It felt like prime time for this opening coincided with the worst of conditions. This was a big loss.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

15m - great Sporadic E into Europe, and some good transatlantic propagation early on Saturday evening (presumably multi-hop Es) made this band great fun for periods.
Sporadic E even tightened as close as Central England, netting us plenty of 15 pointers, but the YBs and 9Ms we normally hear - if not always work through the EU wall - were absent.

10m - boy, this was fun.
We worked stations as nearby as London and Paris on Es. On Sunday morning, the signals from Germany and the Czech Republic were S9+++, absolutely pure with no flutter or fading for about an hour.
It brought back happy memories of sunspot maximum!
No real DX, but when the band opened rates were excellent and provided lots of enjoyment.



Alan GI0PCU, Tom EI7HT and Nicki EI9JF working on one of the beams

Why do we like the IOTA Contest so much?
Well, on Sunday evening after the contest finished, we were sitting outside Ned's pub on a balmy night, with a few cold beers and the most perfect sunset imaginable over Galway Bay. Bill GI3MMF commented that all over Europe and beyond, there were other groups of radio hams enjoying the same sunset.
The great thing about the IOTA Contest is that it encourages us to go and sample our often unique and vulnerable island cultures at a time of the year when, at least in northern Europe, the weather is at its best.
While all our team muck in and work hard at the things they do best, we would be completely lost without our antenna guru and site foreman, GI0PCU. Thanks, Alan.

We also enjoy superb hospitality from the people of Inis Oirr every year, with a warm welcome for these crazy radio hams. In particular, we need to thank the authorities at Inis Oirr's three room school for allowing us the use of such a convenient and accessible QTH every year, with power and internet on tap.



Bill GI3MMF and Mike EI3DY at work

Go raibh mile maith agaibh.
Well, that's that for 2008. See you all next year.
Is it too much to hope that we'll have some sunspots to accompany IOTA 2009?

73
Gerry GI0RTN

EJ0GI Summary

Operators: EI3DY, EI7HT, EI9FHB, EI9JF, GI0PCU, GI0RTN, GI3MMF, GI8SKN

Class: Multi-Operator High Power
QTH: EU-006 (Inis Oirr)
Operating Time (hrs): 24

Score Summary:

Band	CW QSOs	CW Mults	Phone QSOs	Phone Mults
80:	92	35	68	31
40:	429	70	272	43
20:	589	64	142	52
15:	118	32	163	36
10:	108	16	144	16
Total:	1336	217	794	178

Total Score = 5,709,690

Equipment
2 x FT920 plus amp.
Antennas:
Full size vertical for 80m
Dipole for 80m
2 element vertical array for 40m
4-square array for 20m
2 element monobander for 15m at 12m agl
2 element monobander for 10m at 12m agl

European Common Allocations Table

In February last as a result of an initiative by IRTS, ComReg raised at the CEPT Working Group on Frequency Management WGFM, the question of the inclusion of a mention of allocations to the amateur service in the region of 70 MHz in the European Common Allocations table ECA. There had been no mention of these despite the fact that an increasing number of countries were giving operating facilities to the amateur service in that part of the spectrum.

This initiative yielded results as the revised ECA published by the European Radiocommunications Office ERO which was open for consultation until the 16th of August includes a new footnote EU9 which reads as follows
"In a growing number of CEPT countries, parts of the band 70.0 to 70.5 MHz is also allocated to the Amateur service on a secondary basis".
The IRTS sent a detailed submission to the ERO urging that this footnote be retained and requested other IARU societies to do likewise.
The result of the public consultation is now available and the Finnish, British, Czech Republic, Dutch and Norwegian Societies also responded to the ERO consultation and the proposed new footnote is in the draft ECA table to be considered by the next meeting of the CEPT frequency Management Working Group in Baku in Azerbaijan on 22 to 26 September.
It seems that there have been no difficulties raised about the inclusion of the new footnote so hopefully it will be in the final frequency table.
Such a footnote will assist Societies in CEPT countries, which are reluctant to grant allocations at 70 MHz because there is no mention of it either in the ITU Radio Regulations or the European Common Allocations Table.
The IRTS, RSGB, SRAL and DARC in their observations on the draft table also raised points about the inclusion of footnotes in the table mentioning that CEPT National Administrations may make allocations at 500 kHz and 5 MHz.
The IRTS response in addition proposed that the 2009 revision of the frequency table include secondary allocations at these frequencies and a possible CEPT proposal in this regard to a World Radio Conference in the longer term.



IRTS President on a visit to the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group



National Field Day 1962 John Cahill EI7V

Thanks to EI6AK for picture

EI Single Band DXCC Table

		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6
EI7BA	8		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
EI9FBB	7		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
EI4BZ	6		X	X	X	X		X		X	
EI2JD	5		X	X		X		X		X	
EI8GS	3					X		X		X	
EI7GL	3			X						X	X
EI3IO	2	X									X
EI3GV	2					X		X			
EI9JF	1					X					
EI9HQ	1					X					
EI6IZ	1				X						
EI4GK	1									X	
EI3EBB	1										X

EI's on EQSL

(as at Sept 2nd 2008)

DXCC Confirmed

180	EI7BA (+3)	Approved
165	EI3IO (+3)	
156	EI4CF (+4)	Approved
140	EI7CC	
140	EI2JD (+2)	Approved
135	EI9FBB (+2)	Approved
126	EJ9FBB	Approved
138	EI6IZ (+43)	Approved
129	EI0CZ	
101	EI6JK (+18)	
97	EI6HB	
96	EI9HQ	Approved
93	EI6AL (+5)	Approved
92	EJ9HQ	Approved
92	EI5IF	
92	EI8IU (+3)	
84	EI9FVB (+5)	
82	EI8FH (+2)	Approved
82	EI9ES (+4)	Approved
81	EI3GYB	
78	**EI5GM (New)**	
72	**EI4GXB (New)**	
70	EI7IX (+1)	Approved
69	EI2II (+2)	Approved
68	EI/DH0GSU/p (+11)	
66	EI8JR (+13)	
65	EI7M	
65	EI8DL	Approved
65	EI4GNB	Approved
65	EI8DD (+6)	
63	EI4HQ (+6)	
62	EI8GP	
61	EI4IS	
61	EI4HH	Approved
60	EI7JN	
58	EI9JF	
56	EI1DG	
55	**EI9JM (New)**	
55	EI3HA (+3)	
54	EI7IQ	
53	**EI6IL (New)**	Approved
52	EI7BMB (+6)	
50	EI0W (+2)	
50	EI6AK	
50	EI6CPB	Approved
50	EI8JK (+6)	
50	EI9O (+3)	
49	EI2FSB	Approved
48	EI7BFB (+1)	
48	**EI8IQ (New)**	
46	EI6ARB	Approved
43	EI7IM	
42	**EI5IX (New)**	
41	EI3EBB	
39	EI6IF	
39	EI9CF	
35	**EI5GJB (New)**	
34	EI3JB	
34	EI1KARG	
31	EI90GPO (+1)	
29	**EI2GLB (New)**	Approved
27	EI3GDB	Approved
25	EI2FS	
25	EI7GM	
23	EI7IW	Approved
20	EI0CPL	
20	EI2IV	

Worked All States

50	EI9FBB	Approved
50	EJ9FBB	Approved
49	EI9HQ (-1)	
49	EJ9HQ (-1)	
49	EI4CF (-1)	
45	EI6HB	
45	EI3IO	
44	EI4IS (-1)	
43	**EI5GM (New)**	
43	EI8GP	
42	EI7BA	
41	EI7JN	
39	EI2JD (+1)	
36	EI5IF (-1)	
35	EI9HW	
34	EI7CC (+1)	
27	EI6JK	
26	**EI4GXB (New)**	
25	EI9JM	
17	EI0W	
12	**EI9O (New)**	

Worked All Zones

39	EI7BA	
39	EI4CF (+1)	
38	EI9FBB	
37	EI3IO	
34	EI2JD	
33	EI7CC	
31	EI5IF	
30	**EI6AL (New)**	
25	EI6JK	
22	EI7JN	
17	**EI9O (New)**	
16	EI0W	
6	EI7IW	
7		

Worked Prefixes

870	EI4CF	
750	EI2JD (+14)	Approved
632	EI3IO	
619	EI9HQ (+10)	
608	EI7CC (+35)	
568	EI9FBB (+30)	Approved
482	EI6JK (+100)	
465	EI7BA (+25)	
348	EI5IF	
343	EI9FVB (+16)	
333	**EI5GM (New)**	
298	EI0W (+48)	
291	EI9JM (+98)	
213	EI7JN	
167	EI8IU	
166	EI8DL	
115	**EI9O (New)**	

EQSL Report submitted by EI2JD

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed

336	***EI6FR***	***+2***
335	EI2GS	
334	EI7CC	

Phone

333	EI2GS	
332	EI7CC	
329	***EI8EM***	***New***

EI DXCC Listings

(as at August 31st 2008)

Mixed

346	EI7CC	
340	EI2GS	
339	EI8H	
339	EI6FR	
324	EI6S	
321	***EI3IO***	***+5***
306	EI2HY	
270	EI2CR	
264	***EI9FBB***	***+7***
262	EI2GX	
258	***EI7BA***	***+20***
232	EI4BZ	
230	EI9JF	
217	EI2JD	
190	***EI6IZ***	***+15***
189	EI8IU	
152	EI6HB	
151	EI5GM	
128	EI8HA	
114	EI9HQ	
103	EI6AL	
103	***EI9FVB***	***New***

Phone

344	EI7CC	
338	EI2GS	
334	***EI8EM***	***+4***
331	EI8AR	
320	EI6S	
300	EI8AU	
277	EI3GV	
259	***EI9FBB***	***+8***
253	EI4GK	
229	EI8GS	
221	***EI2JD***	***+19***
186	EI7II	
177	EI9FE	
177	EI9JF	
193	***EI7BA***	***+18***
166	EI7GL	
165	EI2CH	
147	EI4BZ	
135	EI8IU	
119	EI4HH	
114	EI4EX	
109	EI9HQ	
108	EI6HB	
105	EI9HX	
105	EI1CS	
103	***EI9FVB***	***New***
101	EI3IP	

CW

312	EI7CC	
230	***EI7BA***	***+21***
220	EI4BZ	
176	***EI6IZ***	***+13***
167	***EI2JD***	***+33***
159	***EI9FBB***	***+24***
134	EI8IU	
128	EI9JF	
109	EI2IH	
109	EI4HM	
107	EI/GM4ARJ	
106	EI1DG	
100	EI6AL	

RTTY/Digital

102	EI6HB	

Satellite

No Entry

160m

184	***EI3IO***	***+37***

80m

146	***EI9FBB***	***+31***
128	***EI7BA***	***+22***
104	EI4BZ	
100	***EI2JD***	***New***

40m

187	***EI9FBB***	***+31***
138	***EI7BA***	***+26***
129	***EI2JD***	***+20***
112	EI7GL	
112	EI4BZ	

30m

122	***EI7BA***	***+18***
106	EI4BZ	
103	**EI9FBB**	**New**
100	**EI6IZ**	**New**

20m

225	***EI9FBB***	***+12***
173	***EI7BA***	***+20***
169	***EI2JD***	***+21***
150	EI4BZ	
121	EI9JF	
111	EI8GS	
110	EI3GV	
100	EI9HQ	

17m

144	***EI7BA***	***+20***
143	***EI9FBB***	***+6***

15m

164	EI4BZ	
150	***EI9FBB***	***+20***
137	***EI7BA***	***+16***
114	***EI2JD***	***+12***
109	EI8GS	
108	EI3GV	

12m

100	***EI7BA***	***New***

10m

134	EI4BZ	
128	EI4GK	
128	***EI2JD***	***+4***
113	EI7GL	
108	***EI7BA***	***+8***
106	***EI9FBB***	***+2***
104	EI8GS	

6m

155	***EI3IO***	***+2***
104	EI7GL	
101	EI3EBB	

2m No entry

QRP DXCC

No Entry

DXCC Challenge

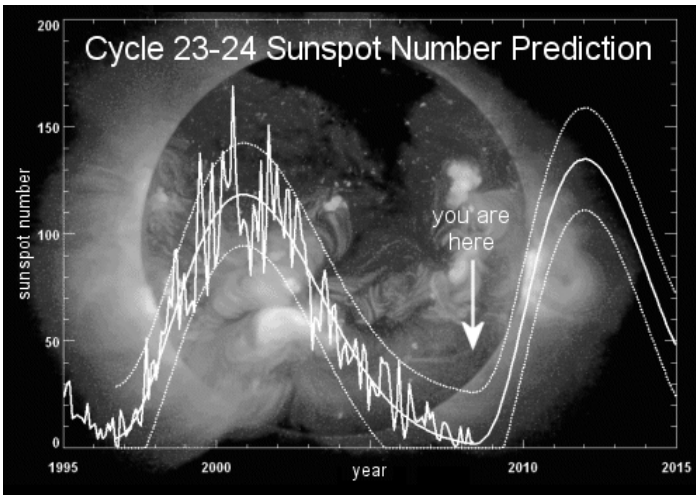
1439	EI7CC	
1389	***EI3IO***	***+186***
1150	***EI7BA***	***New***
1131	***EI9FBB***	***New***

Updates in bold

What's Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)

July 11, 2008: Stop the presses! The sun is behaving normally. So says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "There have been some reports lately that Solar Minimum is lasting longer than it should. That's not true. The ongoing lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle."

This report, that there's nothing to report, is newsworthy because of a growing buzz in lay and academic circles that something is wrong with the sun. *Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots* declared one recent press release. A careful look at the data, however, suggests otherwise.
But first, a status report: "The sun is now near the low point of its 11-year activity cycle," says Hathaway. "We call this 'Solar Minimum.' It is the period of quiet that separates one Solar Max from another."



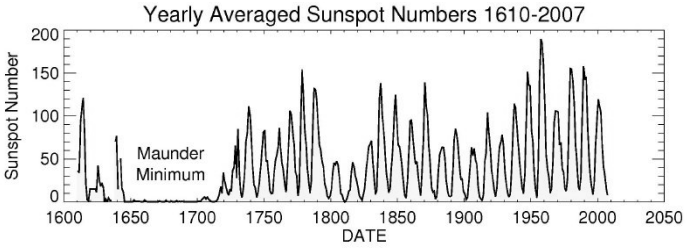
Above: *The solar cycle, 1995-2015. The "noisy" curve traces measured sunspot numbers; the smoothed curves are predictions. Credit: D. Hathaway/NASA/MSFC.*

During Solar Max, huge sunspots and intense solar flares are a daily occurrence. Auroras appear in Florida. Radiation storms knock out satellites. Radio blackouts frustrate hams.
The last such episode took place in the years around 2000-2001.
During Solar Minimum, the opposite occurs. Solar flares are almost nonexistent while whole weeks go by without a single, tiny sunspot to break the monotony of the blank sun.
This is what we are experiencing now.

Although minima are a normal aspect of the solar cycle, some observers are questioning the *length* of the ongoing minimum, now slogging through its 3rd year.

"It does seem like it's taking a long time," allows Hathaway, "but I think we're just forgetting how long a solar minimum can last." In the early 20th century there were periods of quiet lasting almost twice as long as the current spell.
Most researchers weren't even born then.

Hathaway has studied international sunspot counts stretching all the way back to 1749 and he offers these statistics:
"The average period of a solar cycle is 131 months with a standard deviation of 14 months.
Decaying solar cycle 23 (the one we are experiencing now) has so far lasted 142 months--well within the first standard deviation and thus not at all abnormal.
The last available 13-month smoothed sunspot number was 5.70. This is bigger than 12 of the last 23 solar minimum values."
In summary, "the current minimum is not abnormally low or long."
The longest minimum on record, the Maunder Minimum of 1645-1715, lasted an incredible 70 years.
Sunspots were rarely observed and the solar cycle seemed to have broken down completely.
The period of quiet coincided with the Little Ice Age, a series of extraordinarily bitter winters in Earth's northern hemisphere.
Many researchers are convinced that low solar activity, acting in concert with increased volcanism and possible changes in ocean current patterns, played a role in that 17th century cooling.



For reasons no one understands, the sunspot cycle revived itself in the early 18th century and has carried on since with the familiar 11-year period.
Because solar physicists do not understand what triggered the Maunder Minimum or exactly how it influenced Earth's climate, they are always on the look-out for signs that it might be happening again.
The quiet of 2008 is not the second coming of the Maunder Minimum, believes Hathaway. "We have already observed a few sunspots from the next solar cycle," he says.
"This suggests the solar cycle is progressing normally."
What's next? Hathaway anticipates more spotless days, maybe even hundreds, followed by a return to Solar Max conditions in the years around 2012.
Author: Dr. Tony Phillips | Credit: Science@NASA



Niall EI4CF operating at the Shannon Basin SSB Field Day Station.

Next Theory Examination October 30th 2008

The next Theory Examination for the Experimenters licence will be held on Thursday October 30th 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin.
Places for the examination will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will only be reserved on receipt of the examination fee.
Intending candidates should forward the appropriate fee to:
Sean Nolan EI7CD,
12 Little Meadow, Pottery Road, Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin
in order to reserve a place for the exam.

The fee is €50.00 or €25.00 for full-time registered students, repeat candidates and those who are retired, unemployed or have a disability.
Cheques and Money Orders should be made payable to the IRTS and not to Sean Nolan.
When forwarding the exam fee intending candidates should enclose their postal address as well as phone and e-mail contact details.
The closing date for applications to sit the examination, which will be strictly enforced, is Friday the 17th of October.

Photo I.D. mandatory
Intending candidates should note that anyone who fails to produce a photo identity on the day of the examination will not be allowed to sit the examination.
The photo ID can be a driving licence, a passport, an employment photo identity card or a student card containing a photograph.
A national Garda photo ID would also be acceptable.

Sean's e-mail address for any further enquiries is "ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie"

Available on the 'Where Do I Start' section of the IRTS website are Examination Notes with a sample examination paper as well as a link to the ComReg's Experimenter Pages which contain some very useful data under Licensing Information.
Also in the Radio Theory Links section on the website is some very useful information for those studying for the examination.
IRTS has available a Radio Experimenter's Examination Course Guide, which is a CD-based guide to the topics covered by the licence exam. This course is best tackled in a club environment (many clubs will be arranging courses based on the Course Guide, generally commencing in Autumn each year), but for those who are not in a position to attend classes in a club, the CD is available for a nominal registration fee. To order a copy of the Course CD, send the registration fee of €5, along with your name and address to: Sean Nolan, at the address given above.

The examination consists of a question paper of 60 multiple-choice questions divided into three main sections A, B and C and the time allowed is two hours.
The pass mark is 60% and a pass is required in each of the three main sections of the paper.

We wish all intending candidates the best of luck in the examination..

2 Metre Spring Counties Contest 2008 Results

		QSO's	Countie	Points	QTH
High Power Fixed.					
1.	EI3IX	30	8	622	Mayo
2.	*GI4SRQ*	*16*	*8*	*352*	*Armagh*
Low Power Fixed.					
1.	EI9O	30	14	1,848	Longford
2.	EI5FQB	19	7	462	Offaly
3.	EI3GYB	18	5	295	Mayo
4.	EI5IH	12	5	235	Cavan
High Power Portable.					
1.	EI2SBC/P (EI6IB, EI8IU)	73	21	7,959	Longford
2.	EI6IQ/P (EI6IQ, EI2GFB)	56	21	4,662	Monaghan
3.	*MI0CLP/P*	*37*	*17*	*2,431*	*Armagh*
4.	EI2WRC/P (EI3JB, 8JA, 5GOB, 5GRB)	26	15	1,905	Carlow
Low Power Portable.					
1.	EI7GY/P	69	20	6,670	Laois
2.	EI7MRE/P (EI9JA, EI2GCB)	25	10	840	Mayo
3.	EI9FVB/P	10	4	84	Cork
FM Only.					
1.	EI4HX/P	38	16	2,928	Cavan

Check Logs EI4GXB, EI5GLB/P and EI1194
Logs in Italics are winners in their section Outside EI.

Results - CW Field Day 2008

		QSO's	Mults	Points	Total
Restricted Section.					
1.	**EI2SDR/p** **South Dublin Radio Club** (EI3DY, 4HH, 5DI, 9JF, GI0RTN)	790	114	2615	298,110
2.	**EI3Z/p** **Shannon Basin Radio Club** (EI9HX, 2EO, 4CF, 5EAB, 6GB, 6IB, 8IU)	498	104	1568	163,072
3.	**EI3HB/p** **Kinsale Radio Club** (EI5GM, 3DP, 4BZ, 6BT, DH5ST)	446	84	1385	116,340

Open Section. - No entry

South Dublin Radio Club and the Shannon Basin Club operated from Garbally College in Ballinasloe and the Kinsale Club operated from Kinsale.

RSGB Islands On The Air Award Programme

What is IOTA?
Created in 1964 by Geoff Watts, a leading English short wave listener and taken on by the RSGB in 1985, IOTA is an amateur radio activity programme designed to encourage contacts with island stations world-wide.
The oceans islands have been grouped into some 1200 .IOTA groups. with, for reasons of geography, varying numbers of . counters., i.e. qualifying islands, in each.
The objective, for the island chaser, is to make radio contact with at least one counter in as many of these groups as possible and, for the DXpeditioner, to provide such island contacts.
For both it is a fun pastime adding much enjoyment to on the air activity. 21 separate certificates are currently available for island chasers, graded in difficulty, as well as two prestigious awards for high achievement.

Which Islands Count?
To count for IOTA, islands need to meet a few simple rules relating to location. They must not lie in rivers, inland lakes or seas or largely enclosed bays.
They must be a minimum distance from the mainland and they must be either 1 kilometre in length or shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map.
Islands world-wide that meet these requirements are listed in the IOTA Directory. They are grouped wherever possible since they are far too numerous to be allowed to count separately.

How do I know if an island has been activated?
For a specific island, it is not always possible to know or find out. The Directory indicates the IOTA groups that have been activated, not individual islands unless they constitute an IOTA group on their own. These are shown with a reference number, e.g. EU-001 for the Dodecanese. Such numbers are frequently quoted on the air or on QSL cards. IOTA groups with known qualifying islands that have yet to be activated are listed with a provisional number e.g. OC-288P. The number is confirmed as soon as a valid operation is judged to have taken place.

What is the scoring system?
You count one credit for a confirmed contact with each IOTA group listed. Additional credit is not given for a second confirmed contact either with the same island or another in the group.

How do I apply for an award?
The basic award is the IOTA 100 Islands of the World and this is where to start.
But, before doing anything, make sure you have to hand the latest issue of the IOTA Directory with current island listings and award application rules as it will not be easy to prepare an application without one.
If you have a PC with access to Internet, you can download the Directory from the RSGB IOTA website or the IOTA Manager's website .
The recommended way for applying is on-line on the RSGB IOTA web-site by means of the web-form provided.
Complete your application and mark it as ready for processing. It will then be flagged up with your Checkpoint for checking prior to it being cleared for acceptance on the Central IOTA Database.
This requires sight of your QSL cards. So, once you have confirmation that your application is being processed, mail the cards, the appropriate fee and adequate return postage for the QSLs to your Checkpoint.
If you do not have Internet access, see if you can use a friend's Internet connection since submitting on paper will attract a much higher administration fee.

Why do I need to send QSL cards? Why not a certified list?
IOTA is a difficult award programme to administer.
IOTA groups are not always distinguishable by the call-sign prefix or suffix and mistakes can easily be made. To maintain the integrity of the programme the person certifying the application needs to be thoroughly familiar with IOTA and its rules and to have access to the cards, the IOTA Directory and a good atlas during card-checking.
It is felt unreasonable to expect busy national award managers or local radio club officials to take the time to carry out this function to the level of accuracy required. However, to meet a demand for local processing of IOTA applications, a number of Checkpoints have been appointed overseas.

Are participants scores published?
The IOTA Honour Roll and other performance tables giving participants. scores are regularly published on the official IOTA web-sites. As a record of current achievement these listings are a popular feature of the IOTA Programme.

How do I get IOTA Information?
If you are on Internet, there really is no problem as the two IOTA web-sites provide a wealth of information.
Of particular interest, the RSGB IOTA web-site, as well as a number of excellent DX bulletins, publishes the latest information on island activity.
If you are not on Internet, you can subscribe to one of the overseas DX bulletins distributed by post on a weekly or two weekly basis.
RadCom, the RSGB's house magazine, also features a bi-monthly IOTA column giving latest news and information from the Committee. Access to one of these sources is a .must for the keen IOTA island chase.

What are the IOTA meeting frequencies?
The main frequency is 14.260MHz. Other ones on SSB are 28.560, 28.460, 24.950, 21.260, 18.128, 7.055 and 3.755MHz. The CW frequencies are 28.040, 24.920, 21.040, 18.098, 14.040, 10.115 and 3.530MHz. No specific frequency has been nominated for 7MHz CW but it is recommended that operations should include a frequency above 7.025 when the band is open to North America. The 14.260 frequency and other nominated frequencies are not reserved exclusively either for IOTA nets or for the making of island contacts but are shared with others on a normal non-interference basis.

Can I have a group added to the list?
The standard answer is no. The IOTA Committee has set a limit of 1200 on the number of groups on the IOTA list. The reason for this is to prevent the IOTA total becoming an unmanageable figure.
QSL cards have to be submitted for each credit claimed and there has to be a limit on the work that we ask Checkpoints to undertake. For every island that seems to be a good candidate for a separate IOTA group, there are hundreds of other similar candidates elsewhere, each with its own ardent champion!
A detailed set of criteria have been used to establish the present list and, while we don't claim that different groupings might not have been equally feasible, we believe that the present list is fair, provides a useful mix of easy and difficult groups to work and at the same time reflects decisions taken at earlier stages of IOTA Programme development.
The IOTA Committee is however committed to reviewing the list every five years, the next occasion being in 2010.
In the meantime, with the rare exception of the occasional new island DXCC entity group that might qualify under the rules for separate listing or of a previously declared barren IOTA group found to possess a valid island, no new groups will be added.
As for the five year reviews, we can say only that, while we do not wish to bind the hands of future IOTA Committees, we do not currently expect any changes made to be more than minimal.

For DXpeditioners

How many contacts do I need to make my operation be accepted?
There is no minimum required unless you are operating from a provisionally numbered group and are expecting that number to be confirmed.

Do I need to notify my plans in advance or contact you afterwards?
No, it is normally not necessary. Just let the DX bulletins know your plans so that they can publicise the operation. However, this said, there are occasions when you need to be in contact with us.
If you plan to operate from a new, i.e. provisionally numbered, or rare IOTA group or a group which geography, politics, or licensing or environmental restrictions make difficult to access, please contact us early in the planning stage as there is a procedure you will need to follow for your operation to be accepted for IOTA.
For routine, i.e. not new, rare or difficult, operations you do not need to send any documentation to us . in fact we prefer you not to do so . but it is prudent to keep travel invoices, ticket stubs, permits and evidence of being on the island in case of subsequent challenge

When is the IOTA Contest?
It is always the last full weekend in July each year.

Can I reserve an island for the IOTA Contest?
All you can do is to publicise the fact that you are planning to operate from a particular island during the July contest. Do this through the normal publicity channels, including reflectors.

Can I use the IOTA logo on my QSLs?
Yes, you can use the logo so long as you do not amend it in any way. It can be downloaded from the RSGB IOTA web-site.

Islands On The Air Award Programme

EI Listings August 31st 2008

Table Position	Call	Score
Honour Roll		
171	EI7CC	897
484	EI2HY	643
Annual Listings		
1030	EI3IO	252
1076	EI8HA	225
1257	EI4BZ	136
Honour Roll		
171	EI7CC	897
484	EI2HY	643
VHF Listing		
5	EI3IO	107
SWL Listings		
14	EI-1260	526

www.rsgbiota.org

Advice on QSL card design ?
Continuing growth in popularity of the IOTA Programme makes simplification of the card checking procedure essential. Care on QSL design can help enormously if it removes scope for ambiguity about the station location at time of contact.
It is for this reason that we ask that the island name be printed on the card and that the island be one that is recognised as valid for the programme by being listed in this Directory.
Please, therefore, make sure that you print the island name, as well as, of course, checking that the cards meet in all other respects normal QSLing standards since failure to do this can invalidate your operation for IOTA.
If you add the IOTA reference number (highly desirable), first check it against the listing in the Directory as some numbers have changed from earlier listings.

IOTA Directory
The IOTA Directory is available on www.irtsshop.com for €13.50 plus €4.50 post and packing.

IOTA Committee
Current members of the IOTA Committee are:
John Butcher, G3LAS, Committee Chairman
Roger Balister, G3KMA, Programme Manager (ex officio)
Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, Software Manager
Dave Wilson, M0OBW, RSGB Board Liaison
Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ, Committee Member: (Europe)
Don Chamberlain, W9DC, Committee Member (Nth America)
Don Field, G3XTT, Committee Member & IOTA Contest Manager (ex officio)
Steve Lawman, G0UIH, Committee Member
Jim Kellaway, G3RTE, Committee Member

EI5GPB/P on SSB Field Day 6-7 September 2008

With the aim being to test my ability to operate (somewhat) remotely using battery power and a homebrew antenna and at the same time to have a little fun, I entered myself in the Restricted Section of the IRTS' SSB Field Day Contest.
'Restricted' means a station consisting of maximum one rig running 100W or less on battery power only, one antenna only of a single-element construction such as a wire or vertical erected not higher than 35 feet, and the station sited somewhere other than in a permanent building or other man-made structure unless it is erected no more than 24 hours before start of the contest.
The first job was to choose a suitable site on some rough land on Ringarogy Island, opposite Baltimore, County Cork.
It needed to be flat enough for a tent, somewhat sheltered from the gales and near a hill or high point where I could erect an antenna. I found a spot about 300m from the house in a field that seemed to have good shelter from the prevailing south-westerly wind, with a little hill next to it that seemed perfect for an antenna.
Next job was to decide on an antenna. I considered several options - an EF-20 end-fed dipole, a random wire deployed horizontally and a wire taped to a fishing pole deployed as a vertical.
However, each of these required either two support points (there wasn't another hill very close by) or radials (which I didn't want to bother with if possible). So I decided on the suggestion from Conor EI4JN of a quad deployed in a diamond shape. This allowed the use of one pole only (the fishing pole I got from Aldi for €30) and no radials. The design called for a 20m length of wire to be secured at its mid-point to the end of the fishing pole, with lines fastened halfway down each leg of the wire to guy out the sides in a diamond shape and position it open to the WNW (North America)/ESE (middle Europe).
The two ends of the wire were then brought back in to meet at an MFJ-993B automatic antenna tuner at the base of the pole, powered by a small 7AH battery. To secure the fishing pole in a vertical position, I ended up driving a 4 foot metal pipe into the top of the hill into which I inserted the base of the fishing pole. I then guyed the fishing pole with light line to three stakes that I drove in the ground. I drove a copper rod into the ground near the base to provide a good earth for the tuner.

Because of a wet gale blowing on the Friday, I wasn't able to erect all this until early on Saturday even though the rules allow you to erect and test the station within 24 hours of the start of the contest. It didn't take long to put up the tent (not very sheltered from wind that had veered to a northeasterly by early Saturday), but it did take a while to tune the wire to resonate on 14.2 MHz. I finally read the instructions of my antenna analyser and realised I needed to add more wire, not trim off more. I wasn't able to get the SWR below 2.1, so I figured I'd let the tuner do the rest. My portable rig, a Yaesu FT-857D, was easy to set up, with power supplied by a 90AH battery.





By the time the contest started at 1300Z, it had turned into a beautiful sunny day with blue skies and temperature in the high 20s. After a slow start I got into the rhythm and began to get my QSO rate up a bit. After a while I parked myself on a frequency, calling CQ. Despite the crowded band, I was able to hold onto my frequency with surprising ease. The quad antenna with its slight gain over a dipole and low angle of radiation was doing the business.
In about twelve hours of operating (yes, I admit that I withdrew to my bed about 2am and had a decent sleep before resuming), I consumed about 27AH of current from the rig's battery, roughly one-third its capacity. In the late afternoon when I was putting out CQ calls on 20m and therefore using more power than when responding to CQ calls, I was puzzled by the power consumption. The voltage on the battery began to drop steadily and by early evening it was perilously close to the 11.8V minimum the rig needed to operate - so I thought it was going to be an early shower for me that night. However, 20m soon began to deteriorate so I moved to 80m (for some reason the antenna would not tune on 40m). Despite a heavy duty-rate calling CQ on 80m, the voltage of the battery actually began to increase! The only thing I can figure is that the rig was able to push out more power on 20m since the antenna was resonant on 20m, so was consuming power at a more rapid rate.
As soon as I moved to 80m, it seems the rig had to shut back somewhat on power despite the antenna tuner's matching efforts, so the battery was able to recover somewhat from the earlier power drain. At the end of the contest, the battery was showing about 12.1V. Maybe someone can shed some light on this for me if something else was at play.

I worked many German and other continental Europeans, quite a few Gs, one EI and a surprising number of Canadian and US stations - the farthest being a California station.
With a total of 146 QSOs and 18,000 points I won't win any contests but I had a lot of fun and proved to myself that I'm up to portable operation.
I'll definitely do this contest again but next time I'll pray for the wind to stop and the rain to go somewhere else.

Tim McKnight, EI5GPB

SSB Field Day 2008

The SSB Field Day contest took place as usual over the first weekend in September.
A number of Irish stations participated, including two stations operating from the grounds of Garbally College, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Local group Shannon Basin Radio Club along with South Dublin Radio Club were in Garbally for the weekend.
Both stations reported mixed band conditions. There was little or no propagation on 10 metres, there were openings on 15 metres on both Saturday and Sunday, 20 metres was open most of the time, though DX was in short supply, while 40 and 80 metres provided the best QSO rates for long periods.
As usual, the majority of the field day stations contacted were in Germany and Britain.
Field day stations in Denmark and Switzerland also participated.
The Photo Galleries page on the IRTS web site www.irts.ie includes some pictures of the two Ballinasloe-based stations in operation.



Pat EI9HX from the Shannon Basin Radio Group getting the BBQ going at the SSB Field Day in Ballinasloe.



Jim EI4HH operating with the South Dublin Radio Club in Ballinasloe.



Reinhard DF4TD was a guest operator with the South Dublin Radio Club in Ballinasloe.

Mayo Radio Experimenter's Network

Mayo Rally 2008

The Mayo Radio Club is pleased to announce their 2008

Rally

In the

Belmont Hotel, Knock

on

Sunday November23rd

Doors open at 11:AM - Admission €5

Talk-in on 145.600 (Mayo Repeater)

- Lectures
- Morse tests ##
- Demonstrations
- Free Car Park
- IRTS Stand
- Bring & Buy
- Club Stands
- Restaurant
- Bar
- Carvery
- And much more!!

Traders will include:
South East Communications
Long Communications
Elecraft (see the new K3)
Cellcom Ireland
JBT Trading
Sean Martin Electronics
Gavin's Computer & Electronics

Details believed to be correct on date of publishing (7/09/08)

Belmont Hotel
Will be offering a special rate of €55 for B&B or €75 for DBB single or €45/65 sharing (A 2/3 night stay can also be arranged on bargain terms. Enquiries to Belmont Hotel on 094 9388122

Trade and other enquiries should be sent to the Rally organiser: Padraic Baynes EI9JA Telephone 087 6957154 or email pbaynes1@eircom.net

Further information can be found on the club website:
www.ei7mre.org



##MORSE TESTS##

Morse tests will be available at this years Rally but must be prebooked . Please contact:
Sean Donelan EI4GK
Telephone
01 2821420
Email:
donelansean@gmail.com

IRTS Web Site Links

A number of new links have been added to the IRTS web site www.irts.ie in recent weeks and are worth browsing.
Following a number of requests, we have added a Photo Galleries section to the site.
This section has links to a number of galleries, showing Irish radio experimenters in action in a number of areas including contests, a DXpedition and a Club Field Day.
The webmaster welcomes suggestions for additions to the Photo Galleries.

Members Advertisements

Silent Key Sale.
Yaesu FT 1000MP HF Transceiver + Speaker and Service Manuals.
Yaesu FT 480R VHF Transceiver + Power Supply and Ant.
S.P.C. 300 A.T.U. - Power/SWR Meter.
Dummy Load CT 300. - Load Pass Filter LF300
Rolls of 450 + 300 ohm Feed line
Grid dip Meters, Coax Switches.
NES -10-2 Speaker. - RadCom Handbooks.
Contact John EI8AJ on 086 0626468.

For Sale: Icom IC 251e 2m FM/SSB/CW 10 watt base transceiver, pwo, incl. box/manual.
BNOS 2m Amp 3w in 50w out, lp -144 model p.w.o.
Icom SPC ext speaker.
Kenwood TL 922 HF Amp, 1 KW CW/2KW SSB, lovely condition, little use.
KW 103 SWR/PWR meter 5w/1kw .
Yaesu FT 200/250, Transceiver, (black one) very clean, also spare ft 250 for spares (grey model) both complete with speakers/power supplies.
Matching FV200 Ext VFO for above.
Pat, EI6HF. Tel. 059-9140086 or 085-7640044

For Sale: Yaesu FT-101ZD in very good condx …. €250.00
Matching Speaker SP-901 …. ….. €70.00
External VFO for 101ZD …….. €70.00
Sommerkamp 250 with homebrew P.S.U. - as is - offers?
Yaesu FRG7 RX ……. best offer?
Yaesu P.S.U. 12v 8A with built-in speaker ……...€50.00
Valves - boxes of them - take away.
AVO Valve Tester .. Best offer!
Canon BJC 2100 printer - never used - offers?
All items - check and collect!
Telephone 021-4543974

For Sale: Icom IC737, TRX all mode, 100w output. Internal Auto ATU, 101 memory channels, scanning function .
Built-in Keyer. Filters fitted: FL53A & FL101.
Remote jack for 17 CI-V.
General coverage, hand mike, manual…….. €700.00
Phone 01-2809382 or 087-6887757 anytime

For Sale:
Icom -IC271H 100W 2 metre base boxed €375.00 o.n.o.?
Trio TS811E 430MHz base €350.00. Boxed.
Hy Gain Triband HF vertical for 10, 15 & 20 Metres. New, never used still in box €100.00
Mick EI5DCB 086-0693873

Wanted: Yaesu FRG-7 Short Wave Receiver (New or as new). Please call 087-9259477 or write to EI5EU at Apartment No. 6, Cois Locha Apartments, Gweedore Rd., Dungloe, Co.Donegal.

For Sale: Tennamast 43 footer in excellent condition and complete with new rotator cage, ground post and a new set of cables together with a recently factory overhauled friction brake winch.
Ring 094-9030771 or email ensdavid@gmail.com

Carrickfergus ARG

Annual Radio Rally

Saturday 18th Oct. 2008

Downshire Community School, Carrickfergus.

The doors will be open from 12:00pm (access for traders from 9:00am).

A good variety of equipment, books, and associated traders will be present.

Hot food and drinks will be available.

http://www.gi0lix.eu http://www.gi0lix.co.uk
email: carg@hotmail.co.uk

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,

Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

Ethics and Operating Procedures

One of the Webmaster's Choice links on the IRTS web site is to an article on Good Operating Practice by ON4WW.
This article has recently been extended and turned into a 56-page handbook and a slide presentation, entitled "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur".
The handbook and presentation are described as "a training aid aimed at newcomers and a reference work to be used by old timers to improve their behaviours on the ham bands".

Both the handbook and the presentation (which cover the same material) are now available for download from the Downloads page of the IRTS web site.
The material is comprehensive and well written and we feel that students, teachers and existing licensees



Foyle & District ARC Annual Rally

Sunday 2nd Nov. 2008

The White Horse Hotel Campsie, Derry,
BT47 3PA

Usual Attractions & More
Doors open @ 11.30am for Disabled access,
Main event at 12 noon

Free Bring & Buy

TA Electronics, P&D Amateur Radio, JBT Trading,
Long Communications, Foyle Communications,
MI3NIE Wire Antennas,
The Green Man, DEI Ltd Computers, IRTS, Raynet,
RSGB QSL Bureau & Book Stall,
NW Model Aircraft Club, West Tyrone Repeater Group,
Donegal Internet Repeater Group, LY Repeater Group,.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
The Shop

10% discount for IRTS members

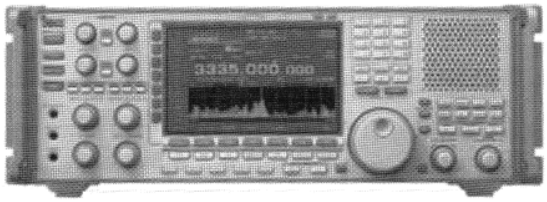
As an extra benefit of membership, IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted Amateur Radio Books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard poet direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS Members (Some exceptions apply).
The range is wide with titles being stocked from RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

Try it today
www.irtsshop.com

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ICOM

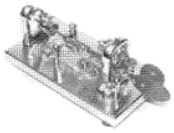
NOW IN STOCK:
IC-R9500



This is THE receiving tool for the serious Experimenter -coupled to the IC7800 or the IC7700 you gwt outstanding results--the receiver can track any Icom tranciever

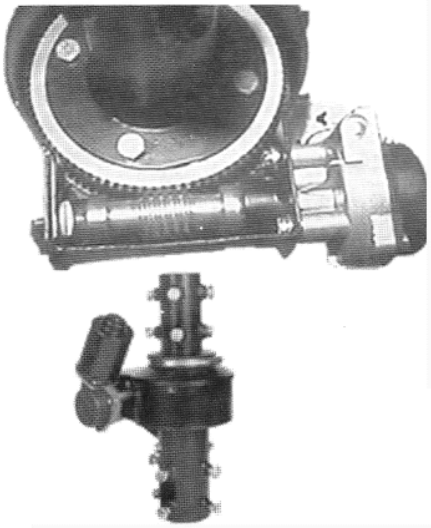


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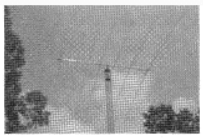


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New Icom Radios

Price List 2008

IC-2200H	€234.00
IC-E2820	€494.00
IC-208	€286.00
IC-2725	€364.00
IC-703	€585.00
IC-706 MKIIG	€780.00
IC-7000	€1,040.00
IC-7400	€1,274.00
IC-756 PRO III	€2,275.00

YAESU
Amateur Radio Division of Vertex Standard

New Yaesu Radios

Price List 2008

FT-7800	€221.00
FT-8800	€286.00
FT-8900	€312.00
FT-817ND	€455.00
FT-857D	€625.00
FT-897D	€615.00
FT-450	€690.00
FT-950	€1,300.00
FT-2000	€2,275.00
FT-2000D	€3,120.00

Used-Radio Price List

IC-7400	€1040.00
IC-756 PRO	€1050.00
IC-756 PROII	€1560.00
IC-702 Mk1	€440.00
FT-2000D 8 weeks old	€2695.00
FT-897D	€572.00
FT-857D/Sep Kit	€583.70
FT-101ZD MK3	€370.50
FT-102	€440.00
SP-102 Speaker	€99.00
FV-102 VFO	€245.00
FT-950	€1137.50
TS-850	€695.00
TS-530	€338.00
TS-450	€552.50
TS-2000	€1170.00
TS-50 & AT-50	€650.00

Trade-ins are always welcome.

All emails will be answered a.s.a.p.

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Watson Weather Stations €110.00

W-8681
Wireless Weather Station



This new weather station has just been released and offers more features than any other similar product, and all at an amazing price.

Everything you need is included in the box other than 4 AA cells. You even get a short support mast and clamps to attach the assembled sensors to. There is a generous amount of cable to interconnect the sensors to each other, BUT YOU NEED NO CABLE back to the LCD control console that you use indoors,. That is the beauty of wireless control. You can mount the sensors up to 50m away from the LCD panel and not a cable in sight!

The lovely LCD panel is large and is touch controlled. That's right, you even get a comprehensive touch screen for the price! Customers are bowled over when they look at what they get for the money. Just imagine being able to see all the weather parameters on a screen that is not tethered by cable. You can take the panel around the house and use in any room you like.

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Yaesu FT-2000
€2,175.00



Yaesu FTdx-9000D
€4,875.00



Yaesu FT-897
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Yaesu FT-857
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ICOM IC-7700
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ICOM IC-756 Pro III
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Kenwood TS-2000
€1,649.00



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Yaesu FT-1000MK5. 200w. All Mode.€1,799.00
Yaesu FT-990DC Auto ATU, fully filtered. Mint.....€999.00
Yaesu FT-847 Earth Station. HF/6m/2m/70cm.€1,099.00
Yaesu FT950AT. Demo Model. HF/6m, 100w DSP.....€1,099.00
Yaesu FT857D HF/6m/2m/70cm, DSP. 100w Mint€499.00
Kenwood TS-790 2m/70cm/23cm. All mode base stn.....€999.00
Kenwood 570DGE, 100w , 0-30MHz, DSP.....€849.00
Yaesu 450AT. Latest HF & 6m , Auto ATU, DSP€625.00
Kenwood TS-850SAT, Auto ATU. Mint, Boxed€899.00
Yaesu FT 920, HF/6m, Auto ATU, DSP. Mint€999.00
Kenwood TS870 SAT. Auto ATU, DSP€999.00
Icom 718. Entry level HF Tcvr, 100w, boxed as new€499.00
Icom IC756PRO. One owner. Auto ATU, DSP.....€1,099.00
Icom IC-746 HF/6/2m 100w. Auto ATU. Mict.....€899.00
Yaesu FT736R Multi-mode base station 2m/70cm.....€899.00
Kenwood THF7E, 2/70cm, H/H 0-1300MHz Rx SSB.....€209.00
Icom IC821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multi-mode, ...€899.00
Kenwood TM455E 45w Yaesu 70cm multi-mode, ...€299.00
Kenwood R2000 Desktop 0-30MHz all mode Rx.....€299.00
Yaesu FRG-7700 Desktop 0-30MHz all mode Rx.....€249.00
Realistic PRO 2006. 25-1300 MHz. 400 memories€175.00
Realistic DX394. Desktop Shortwave Receiver.....€199.00
AOR 5000. 0-2600MHz. 1000 mems. All Mode€1,249.00
AOR 5000+3. As above with extra filtering€1,499.00
AOR 3000A 0-2036 MHz, 400 memories. All Mode€649.00
AOR 7030 Award winning Rx. 0-30MHz Boxed/mint....€699.00
Realistic PRO 2042 1000 ch scanner. Base/mobile.....€249.00
Yaesu VR5000. 0-2600MHz. Base/mobile. Mint.€499.00
AOR8600 Mk2, Base/Mobile receiver. All mode.....€525.00
Icom IC-7000 25-2000MHz. Desktop Receiver..... `€499.00
Daiwa RS-40Xll. 40 Amp Power Supply 0-15v.....€159.00
MFJ 949E 300w Antenna with dummy load.....€149.00
Yaesu MD-1 Desk Mic for FT990, FT736, FT1000 etc.....€89.00
Kenwood MC90 Desk Mic for DSP Kenwoods.....€175.00
Kenwood MC60 Desk Mic. Mint condition.....€125.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe.....€125.00
Garmin Street Pilot 2610 GPS. Ireland & Europe.....€199.00
Watson 22 Amp 0-15v PSU. Special offer - New!.....€79.00
Daiwa Power/SWR Meter. 1.8-200MHz Up to 2kW€125.00

We now have 5,500 items in our price list. Ring for latest prices.
Above is a small selection from our used stock. Ring for latest.